



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:

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## Successful Child Support Solutions Helps Families

*Three-Day Event Provided Solutions, Helped Collect Support Payments, & Reinstated Drivers' Licenses*

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, August 23, 2019) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Child Support Solutions was a success! The three-day event, from August 14<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency, helped collect child support payments, gave attendees information about finding employment, and offered free DNA testing.

During the event, the Prosecutor's Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) assisted over 130 parents representing nearly 270 open active cases. The event collected nearly \$24,000 in child support payments. For the first time, Child Support Solutions offered "Dollar Days". For every one dollar paid toward past due support, the program waived one dollar of past due support owed to the State of Ohio. To take part in the agreement, the participant needed to make a minimum payment of \$100.

"My mission as Summit County Prosecutor is to fight for people. Whether you are a crime victim or someone who is supposed to receive child support payments, my office works hard to get them the help they need," said Prosecutor Walsh. "Child Support Solutions Days is just one way we fight for families and get them the money they so desperately need. I'm so proud of my Child Support Enforcement Agency and its efforts to break down barriers which prevented people from paying child support."

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Child support case managers were on hand to answer questions and make payment arrangements. In this setting, case managers were able to take the extra time to discuss a client's individual cases one on one, handle problems and clear any confusion. Also, representatives from the following Summit County agencies provided information to non-custodial parents:

- Summit County Fatherhood Initiative
- Summit County Children Services
- Summit County Public Health
- Ohio Means Jobs
- Summit County Department of Job and Family Services
- Universal Screen Arts
- Aspire Employment
- Citizen Circle
- The Reserves Network
- Liberty Labor
- Revelation Coaching
- Community Legal Aid
- Akron UMADAOP
- Akron Urban League

#### **RESULTS:**

- 136 clients served, representing over 269 open active cases.
- \$23,559.56 in child support payments received.
  - 50 parents paid minimum of \$100.
  - Largest payment was \$3,722.82, which included Dollar Days Agreements.
- 20 non-custodial parents took part in Dollar Days Agreements for 22 cases.
  - These 20 obligors paid \$12,402.27.
  - State owed debt totaling \$12,393.25 was forgiven.
- 40 parents had their driver's licenses reinstated.
- 12 parents received assistance in registering for the web portal.
- 12 parents requested genetic testing however paternity was already established in some cases.
  - Genetic testing was conducted for 3 cases, involving 5 participants.
- 49 parents inquired about getting their child support order changed.
  - 17 parents applied for a Modification of Support on 20 cases and are being scheduled.
  - Some parents did not qualify for a modification of support for various reasons. A modification of support can only be requested every 36 months unless a parent has a change of circumstances (unemployment) or income resulting in a 30% decrease in income beyond the parent's control.
- 8 parents signed up for Family Support Matters for employment assistance and other unique services to overcome barriers to non-payment.
- 45 parents visited 14 onsite vendors providing various services, including employment with 3 temporary agencies.

#### **About CSEA**

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency collects nearly \$76 million annually and handles nearly 46,000 child support cases. Each year it establishes support orders for approximately 4,000 children. Since its inception in 2001, the Criminal Non-Support program has collected over \$45 million through its aggressive prosecution of individuals neglecting to pay child support. You can learn more about CSEA on its website: <http://co.summitoh.net/prosecutor/index.php/divisions/child-support-enforcement>.