



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
Monday, October 19, 2020

Prosecutor Walsh's Child Support Enforcement Agency Receives National Honor

Drive-Up DNA Testing One of Four Programs in the Country Chosen for Innovation

AKRON, Ohio (Monday, October 19, 2020) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that her Child Support Enforcement Agency's Drive-Up DNA testing was chosen by the National Child Support Enforcement Agency (NCSEA) for its innovative solution to help local families.

The NCSEA recently received submissions from Child Support Enforcement Agencies from across the country for a national "Hackathon". The "Hacks" looked at innovative ways to find solutions to problems or challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NCSEA chose the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency's Drive-Up DNA testing site. On May 11, 2020, Prosecutor Walsh's Child Support Enforcement Agency began Drive-Up DNA testing for clients to help establish paternity on child support cases. The Drive-Up DNA testing was needed to fill a critical need during the COVID-19 pandemic after walk-in testing was eliminated at local hospitals.

"It is quite an honor to be one of only four child support agencies in the country to receive this recognition. I am so proud of the hard work my team does to help families," said Prosecutor Walsh. "Establishing paternity is vital to protect important legal rights and privileges, such as inheritance, medical and life insurance benefits, and access to social security and veterans' benefits."

--more--

Prosecutor Walsh's Child Support Enforcement Agency will present the Drive-Up DNA test "hack", along with the three other agencies, during the NCSEA's Inspire live event on Thursday, October 29, 2020. The four "hacks" will be reviewed by a panel of judges and a prize will be awarded to the best solution.

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency DNA testing is conducted by **DRIVE-UP** and **APPOINTMENT ONLY** and abides by state health guidelines issued for the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception, 524 people have been tested through the Drive-Up DNA program.

Testing takes place on the M1 level of the Summit County Parking Deck. A designated area is blocked off specifically for genetic testing. Upon completion of the testing, clients are provided a parking voucher, with a limit of 30 minutes, which will allow them to leave the parking deck free of charge.

The lab technician is located on the 1st floor of the Ohio Building and will greet clients at their vehicles.

The address for the Summit County Parking Deck is 200 South High Street. Vehicles must use the public entrance on South High Street and follow the signs to the testing site on level M1.

This is a **Drive-Up, Appointment Only** option. Those who do not have a scheduled appointment will not be tested. If a client is unable to take advantage of the **Drive-Up, Appointment Only** option or they are unable to appear at the scheduled date and time, they should contact CSEA at 330.643.2765 to make other arrangements.