



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Child Rape**

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, March 08, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Bruce Gordon, 33, of Ardella Avenue in Akron, was sentenced to Life in Prison for the rape and sexual assault of three girls under the age of ten. Gordon will be eligible for parole after serving 55 years.

On March 1, 2016, a Summit County jury found Gordon guilty of the following charges:

- 2 Counts of Rape of a Victim Under the Age of 13 – felonies of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- 3 Counts of Gross Sexual Imposition – felonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree

In February of 2015, one of the victims notified her mother that Gordon was sexually assaulting her sister. The mother then questioned the girls who all said Gordon had assaulted them. The victims were five, seven, and eight at the time.

“These girls showed tremendous strength when they testified to what happened to them. Facing the person who did this can overwhelm anyone,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “I’m glad our facility dog Avery was able to comfort the girls and empower them to tell their story. I am pleased to know that Bruce Gordon will live the rest of his life in prison and will not be able to prey on innocent young girls anymore.”

Gordon was also labelled a Tier III sex offender. If he is released from prison, Gordon will have to register with the sheriff’s department every 90 days for the rest of his life.

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Avery II, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facility dog, sat with all three victims when they testified at trial. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office received Avery II in August of 2013 from Canine Companions for Independence. Avery is a highly trained four-year-old Labrador/Retriever mix facility dog, whose primary job is providing emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are victims of crime. Since 2013, Avery II has been involved in over 80 cases in Summit County