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NEWS
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**Summit CSEA recognized by federal child support agency
for initiatives to enhance child support collections**

(Akron) ... The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), a division of the Prosecutor's Office, was recognized by the federal child support agency for two innovative practices to enhance child support collections.

Sherri Bevan Walsh, Summit County Prosecutor, said "Summit County has long been recognized as one of the most aggressive counties in Ohio when it comes to collecting child support. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services submitted nine innovative initiatives to be considered for recognition by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE). The two initiatives submitted on behalf of Summit County were selected and published in the Federal Information Memorandum as *Compendium of Promising Practices/Good Ideas in Child Support Enforcement.*"

Nationwide, there were only 16 CSEA's recognized and Summit County's CSEA was the only agency to have two initiatives recognized. In Ohio, Summit County received two awards and Lucas County received one.

Walsh continued, "The two programs recognized were implemented in 2008. First, our billboard campaign to assist with locating child support felony offenders and to increase public awareness of the child support program. The billboards featured individuals who had felony warrants for not paying their child support and asked for the public's assistance in locating these people. Of the 53 individuals featured on the billboards, we arrested 32, a 60% success rate. We also collected \$34,203 from these individuals.

"The second best practice was for improving the agency's federal incentive performance in the collection categories by reducing the amount of unclaimed, held funds."

Walsh concluded, "Congratulations CSEA on another "Best Practice" award. This brings our awards to a total of 18 since 2001 for innovative approaches and outstanding work in collecting child support. I appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into being one of the best CSEA's in Ohio!"