



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Akron Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Rape

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, October 13, 2021) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Kelly McLaughlin sentenced Gerry Simmons, 40, of Callis Drive in Akron, to 20 years in prison for rape.

On October 3, 2021, Simmons pled guilty to the following charges:

- Two Counts of Rape – Felonies of the 1st Degree

The prosecution of Mr. Simmons was conducted as part of the Akron Police Department's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI). In 2007, the survivor was sexually assaulted and went to the hospital where a sexual assault kit was collected. At the time, the investigation did not lead to a suspect. The sexual assault kit was tested in 2015 and DNA collected matched Gerry Simmons.

Simmons is currently serving a prison sentence for felonious assault. He will begin serving his 20 year sentence for rape following completion of his current prison sentence.

"I am proud of the survivor, who showed tremendous strength after nearly 14 years of waiting. I want to thank my assistant prosecutors and the entire SAKI team for their continued fight to bring justice to these survivors and their families," said Prosecutor Walsh.

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In 2018, the Akron Police Department received a three-year, one-million dollar grant from the Department of Justice to form the SAKI Unit. The Akron Sexual Assault Kit Initiative reviews unsolved rape cases less than 20 years old where DNA was collected but no suspect was charged with a crime. The Akron SAKI unit is made up of three Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees, three Akron Police Department detectives, and members of the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties, and the Summit County Victim Assistance Program.