



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Summit County Prosecutor's Office Take Me Home Program for People with Developmental Disabilities

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, January 3, 2023) – With the recent expansion by the Ohio Legislature of the state's "Silver Alert" to include individuals with Autism and other developmental disabilities, Summit County Prosecutor Sherrri Bevan Walsh would like to remind Summit County residents of her Take Me Home program.

Started in Summit County by Prosecutor Walsh in 2007, Take Me Home is a secure database facilitated by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and is accessible only by law enforcement. The program allows for the rapid identification and safe return of children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home, including those living with dementia, Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, and Autism. The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics that can be searched if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

As the mother of a son who lives with Autism, Prosecutor Walsh is intimately aware of the struggles, and joys, of parenting a child who lives with Autism. "When my son was very young his school bus driver dropped him off at the wrong stop. Thankfully we were able to locate my son quickly. I know the fear parents and caregivers have if their relative wanders away from home. My goal of Take Me Home is to help provide some relief for parents that local law enforcement is trained to find their loved one quickly and safely return them home."

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Entering a person in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Take Me Home program is FREE and easy. You can contact the office's Take Me Home Coordinator, Leslie Knoblauch, at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800. You can also download an application from the Summit County Prosecutor's Office website at <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/programs/Take-Me-Home.html>.

You can also use your smart phone and follow the link provided through this QR Code



Take Me Home currently has over 2,000 Summit County citizens registered in the program who would need additional assistance in an emergency.