



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

Addressing Domestic Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE is defined as violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the abuse of a spouse or partner. But domestic violence is much more than just a definition. It can be a devastating situation, and breaking away is difficult. Many are not prepared to handle domestic violence.



Domestic violence usually happens behind closed doors and can happen anywhere, at any time. Just recently, a Summit County couple was found dead in their home. Investigators say it was a murder-suicide. The 55-year-old man strangled his 46-year-old wife, before killing himself. The couple was going through a divorce. Police had been called to the home twice over a four month period for reports of the couple arguing.

Could something more have been done to prevent this tragedy? What role can police officers and first responders play in preventing these situations from escalating?

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office offers training and continuing education on the topic of domestic violence. In May, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facilitated a four day training session for the Akron Police Department. Prosecutors described different situations and scenarios involving domestic violence and provided insight into how to approach the victim and the aggressor as well as how to tell the difference between the two.

When gathering information, first responders should consider the history of violence of each party involved. Were there any past convictions? How many times were officers called to the home? What do neighbors, co-workers, or family members say? Separate the parties and consider the victim's fear in the presence of the abuser.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you have options. Call the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties to develop a safety plan.

- Determine the safest route out of your home.
- Pack a bag with necessities and hide it.

- Develop a way to signal a neighbor or friend nearby if or when you need help.
- Gather important family papers (driver's license, birth certificates, medical records and social security cards) and place them in a secret place.
- Save and hide small amounts of money over time.

Summit County is also the only county in the state with a courtroom dedicated to handle felony domestic violence cases. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also has a team of highly trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims.

You can also call the Summit County Domestic Violence hotline at 888.395.4357.

To schedule a training session with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, contact Angela Walls-Alexander at 330.643.4118 or email her at

walls-alexander@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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In The Community

One of the main focuses of our office is keeping the community safe. In July, prosecutors teamed up with Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry to present



crime safety tips as well as important self-defense techniques at the Senior Safety Fair at Roses Run Country Club in Stow.

It was wonderful meeting so many people. Over 100 came out to take part in the event, including Stow Mayor Sara Drew. The organizers of the event plan on having another senior safety fair in the fall. And we hope to be a part of the presentation.



On Thursday evening July 23rd, Deputy Chief Prosecutor Joe Fantozzi gave a Senior Crime Safety Speech at the Stow Community Center.

The Women's Fellowship of the Community Church of Stow enjoyed it so much, they donated money to the Victims Assistance Program on behalf of Joe.

Thank you to all who participated, and the Women's Fellowship for their generous donation.



August is Child Support Awareness Month. And the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to help families in need of support.

Our annual Child Support Solutions Day is on Friday August 14. Solutions Day is a one-stop shop for people who need help with child support payments. Case managers will be available to discuss payment arrangements and support modification.

NEED HELP PAYING CHILD SUPPORT?

Summit County Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh
presents
Child Support Solutions
a one-day amnesty event to help you take financial responsibility

We Will Help You:

- Get your driver's license back
- Make payment arrangements
- Get rid of child support warrants
- See if you qualify for waiver or settlement of past due support owed to the state
- Learn about employment assistance
- Get free genetic paternity testing
- Learn about Fatherhood Initiatives
- Resume writing
- Relationship counseling
- Financial literacy
- Computer training

Friday, August 14, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
at The Ohio Means Jobs Center
1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue

Attendees can take a quick, painless genetic paternity test to legally establish paternity. Parents who have their driver's license suspended for failure to pay child support can reinstate their license.

Those with outstanding child support-related warrants can get rid of their warrants without going to jail. Additionally, representatives from a multitude of federal, state and local agencies will be on hand to discuss the available resources to help attendees finish their education, get a new job and become a better parent.

Also, on August 12th and 26th, the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) will have community booths at the main branch of the Akron Public Library. A booth will also be set up at the Metro Bus Station on August 19th.

Agency representatives will be available to answer questions about cases and paternity establishment as well as offer giveaways.

Bring Your: Photo ID, Existing court orders, Most recent pay stub, Proof of employment/unemployment

Want more information?
(330) 643-2765
SummitCSEA.org

Avery's Corner

Back To School Safety

I almost forgot to tell you. I got to meet one of my heroes! That's me with the legendary Dick Goddard from FOX 8 news. Mr. Goddard and I were at the 14th Annual Akron Pet Expo at Hardesty Park.



Mr. Goddard is behind a new state proposal which would charge someone with a felony if they knowingly caused serious physical harm to a companion animal. That includes depriving a pet of food, water, or shelter. The proposal still has to pass the Ohio State Senate

I also spent time at a very special place — the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. Wow, what a wonderful place to be. The Hattie Larlham Center is in Mantua, and is home to 130 children with developmental disabilities.



It was great seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids. And they have such a great place to live, with caring nurses and staff. We saw a theater room, the art room, and even rooms for families to gather. Hattie Larlham even has a permanent art gallery in downtown Akron at the Summit Artspace showcasing the work done by the residents.

Schools will re-open soon. A study by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children shows that approximately 35% of attempted child abductions occur when the child is going to or from school.

We want to share with you the NCMEC's 10 back to school safety tips:



1. Stay with a group when standing at the bus stop.
2. Children should never take short cuts and always stay in well lit areas.
3. Always provide supervision for children walking to or from bus stops.
4. Teach your children if someone bothers them it is okay to not be polite and okay to say NO.
5. Teach your children that if anyone tries to take them, they should resist by kicking and screaming.
6. Teach your children not to accept a ride from anyone unless you have said it is okay.
7. Teach your children that adults should not ask children for directions.
8. Teach your children never to accept money or gifts from anyone unless you have told them it is okay.
9. Make sure your school has current and accurate emergency contact information on file for your children. Confirm names of those authorized to pick them up.
10. Always know where your children will be. Teach them to never leave school with anyone unless they check with your first.

Also, Please be aware as you're driving through your community. Make sure you slow down when driving around schools and pay attention to the speed limits in school zones.

And please STOP when a school bus has it's red flashing lights on. Together we can make sure our community is safe and kids make it to and from school without any incidents.



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



August Top Cop

Stow Police Detective Edie Gaffney

Nominated by Asst. Prosecutor Jennie Shuki

The case was disturbing. The parents of a 7-month-old noticed several bruises on the boy's body after picking him up from a babysitter. Doctors discovered a lacerated liver and two broken ribs, as well as marks on the boy's neck. How did it happen? Who was responsible? Stow Detective Edie Gaffney was on the case.

Det. Gaffney was able to get the defendant, Josiah Andexler, locked in on his story. Andexler admitted he was the only one watching the infant at the time and that the injuries were not there when the mother dropped the child off. This was key. Andexler's own admissions limited the timeline of when the abuse could have occurred; they had to have happened while Andexler was babysitting.

Det. Gaffney also made sure to

document the baby's injuries at the hospital as well as a day or two later. That was important to show the extent of the bruising, especially around his



neck. The bruises to his neck turned from a red line to a purple bruise running completely around his neck, clearly showing the ligature mark. Det. Gaffney also fully photographed the scene, key because the defendant could not claim later the boy hurt

himself on a certain toy.

Det. Gaffney interviewed the infant's extended family, whom he was with the night prior to his injuries. Det. Gaffney even got pictures taken that night, showing a happy, bruise-free baby. That also supported the theory Andexler caused the injuries. Andexler couldn't later claim the boy's family did it when we had pictures of the child looking fine at that time. Det. Gaffney filled in the gaps, shored up the loose ends in the investigation, and by doing so, secured a timeline of the abuse which pointed directly to the defendant. Andexler is currently serving a 30 month prison sentence!

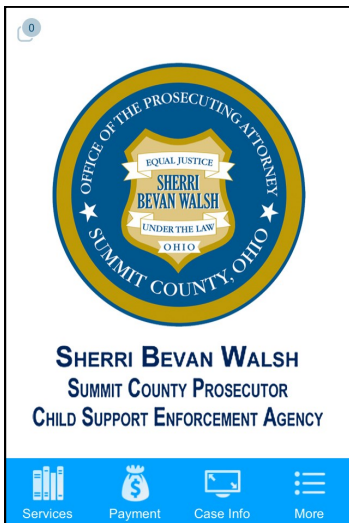
Thank you Det. Gaffney. Great Work!

Download The New CSEA App

Free Self-Defense Class

Don't forget to download the new CSEA app. It's easy to use and can help streamline the process for

families. Parents seeking child support can quickly find phone numbers, access forms, and get the agency's address and office hours. Plus you can find out the different ways to make child support payments. Just search CSEA in Google Play or iTunes.



Join us on Monday, August 17 for our FREE Mother-Daughter Self-Defense class.

Learn key techniques to protect you from an attacker.

The class is from 6p-8p at Redeemer Church Family Life Center in Cuyahoga Falls.

Call Mackenzie Border for more information at 330.643.2295.

FREE Mother-Daughter Self-Defense Class

HOSTED BY
Summit County Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh
&
University of Akron Police
Lt. Chad Cunningham

Monday, August 17, 2015

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Redeemer Church—Family Life Center
2141 5th Street
Cuyahoga Falls, 44221

IS YOUR DAUGHTER BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT?

- Learning to drive?
- Starting to date?
- Working a job at night?
- Moving out on her own?
- Going to college?

**No Registration Needed
Women of All Ages
Welcome!**

For more information, contact:
Mackenzie Border
330.643.2295
border@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Meet our new employee: Danica Smith—Victim Advocate

Hire Date: July 27, 2015

Title: Victim Advocate

Hometown: Sagamore Hills

Education: 2015 Graduate of Kent State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Justice Studies

Background: Former intern at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office then worked at Huntington National Bank while I finished college.

Hobbies/Interests: I like watching movies, spending time with friends, boating, going to concerts, and attending Indians games.

Fun Fact: I was born in Japan.

Future Goals: I want to go to law school and become a lawyer.

Comment to the Office: I'm so excited for this opportunity and to meet and work with all of you!



Agency Spotlight: Rahab Ministries

RAHAB stands for "Reaching Above Hopelessness and Brokenness." Its goal is to guide women from a place of pain and desperation into a place where they recognize their self-worth.

Founded in 2002, RAHAB is a non-profit Christian ministry of volunteers who devote themselves to rescuing women who are trafficked into prostitution in Akron.

RAHAB grew out of the desire for Akron native and founder, Becky Moreland, to serve those in the deepest need. When Becky heard a radio program featuring a ministry for prostituted



women in Chicago, she knew that this would be her life's work. Becky returned to Akron, and after speaking with her church leadership, she formed the organization.

Today, RAHAB works out of a drop-in center in inner-city Akron. The center gives women a warm, safe place for weekly Bible studies, mentoring, family-style meals and a clothing closet.

RAHAB is always looking for donations and volunteers, for more information visit their website at <http://www.rahab-ministries.org/>

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