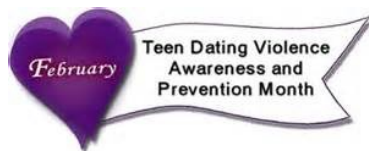




FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



A Message From Prosecutor Walsh Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Parents typically put their children's safety first. But once your children hit their tween years, those risks become less obvious to us. When it comes to teen dating violence, for instance, many parents are not paying attention to the signs.

It is an alarming fact that one in 10 teens have reported being hit or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend, according to the Center for Disease Control. Parents need to become educated on risks and warning signs and to learn how to talk to their children when abuse is suspected.

Parents would like to assume that their child isn't at risk for dating abuse. But, teen dating violence is not biased; it can affect any adolescent, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, culture or economic status.

Despite the epidemic of teen dating abuse, I feel that many parents are uninformed. This could be because parents are missing the signs. The patterns and signs of teen abuse mimic those of adult relationships, and don't always result in cuts or bruises.

Warning signs may include:

- Your teen's partner is extremely jealous or possessive. Your teen's partner emails or texts excessively.
- You notice that your son or daughter is depressed or anxious.



- Your son or daughter stops participating in extracurricular activities or other interests.
- Your teen stops spending time with other friends and family.
- Your teen's partner abuses other people or animals.
- Your teen begins to dress differently.
- You notice unexplained marks or bruises.
- See page 3 of our Newsletter for more warning signs.

A new form of abuse, Digital Abuse, or the use of technologies

such as texting and social networking to bully, harass, stalk, or intimidate a partner, puts parents at an even greater disadvantage.

As parents it may be difficult to monitor every single text message our child receives. But, we can check our phone records to see if there is any number in particular that may be sending a high volume of texts.

Parents can take many steps if we suspect our child is a victim, starting with expressing concern and offering to be a safe, non-blaming person to talk to about relationships. We have to remember that we are our children's role models.

As bystanders we can speak up when we see someone being treated badly. This helps to establish community norms that promote healthy relationships. Ending Domestic Violence needs to be a collaborative effort in which we all make an effort.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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Avery II's Corner



As a Facility Dog, my main goal is to provide much needed comfort to children while they undergo interviews at the office and testify in court. I also assist Turning Point and Valor Court participants in their recovery, visit shelter facilities, greet jurors and lift the spirits of courthouse staff.

I rang in the new year with all work and little play. I participated in Valor Court Graduation. Valor Court was established to help our veterans that have been involved with the criminal justice system. By providing this special court, veterans are given access to programs to enhance their chance of success. I greet each graduate with a special message of support on a coffee cup filled with candy to show my support!

Toward the end of January, I met for over four hours with three girls who were sexually abused. It was a difficult day. It was very sad to hear them tell their story. They were crying and upset and I was able to comfort them. A few days later, I met with another young victim who stated, "if Avery is with me, it will make me feel so much better!" This is my job!



I was excited to be visited by my puppy raiser Charlie Carrey. He gave me a lot of the training I use to work with victims of crime. I was also featured in the January edition of the *Hudson Hub Times* about my role as the Prosecutor's Office Facility Dog.

GUILTY VERDICTS



Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining a 100% conviction rate at trial in January:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Kassim Ahmed | Seema Misra |
| Nik Buckmeier (2) | Angela Poth-Wypasek |
| Nick Buzzy | Dustin Roth |
| Pete Daly | Omar Siddiq |
| Elliot Kolkovich (2) | Jamie Syx (2) |
| Brian LoPrinzi | |
| Kevin Mayer | |

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!

Tough Prosecutions

These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

Robert Tucker III, 30

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Aggravated Burglary
- Domestic Violence
- Sentenced to 26 years in prison

Dequante Moorer, 20

- Murder
- Sentenced to 18 years to life in prison



Help Us Go Green!

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



February Top Cops

Lieutenant Gary Merton, Sergeant James Singleton, Detective Eric Roach, and Detective Daniel Quior
Cuyahoga Falls Police Department
Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Joseph Dangelo



On September 23, 2014, Cuyahoga Falls Police arrested Scott Fogel and charged him with drug trafficking after the department's narcotics unit executed a search warrant at Fogel's residence in the Falls. Officers seized more than \$762,537 in cash, three cars, two motorcycles and two handguns.

Prior to Fogel's arrest, Cuyahoga Falls Police received a tip that Fogel was selling marijuana and painkillers from his home and barbershop. Lt. Merton, St. Singleton, Det. Roach, and Det. Quior conducted surveillance of Fogel's residence. They witnessed customers take marijuana from Fogel's barbecue grill and painkillers from a scooter and leave a sum of money for payment.

On December 30, 2014, Fogel pleaded guilty to Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a felony of the fifth degree, received 24 months probation, forfeited \$611,500, a Pontiac G6, a Smith and Wesson .38 Model 637, and an HK .45 with four magazines.

Lt. Merton, St. Singleton, Det. Roach, and Det. Quior worked tirelessly along with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation to put together the necessary facts for both the criminal and civil forfeiture cases.

Thanks to all of you for your outstanding efforts on this case and for the largest cash seizure that Cuyahoga Falls has ever seen!

Way To Go Top Cops!

Warning Signs of Teen Dating Abuse

For our tweens and teens, recognizing the signs of teen dating abuse isn't always easy. If you don't know any better, some of the more common forms of abuse might seem like the way partners are supposed to act.

If any of these signs are true for your teen in their relationship, seek help.

1. **He/She Constantly Checks In on You**-Constantly receiving phone calls asking you where you've been and who you've been with.
2. **He/She Lies to You**-Relationships don't last without trusting each other.
3. **He/She Won't Let You Talk to Other Friends of Same Sex**-You are allowed to talk to anyone you want. If your partner is suspicious, he/she should have a mature conversation with you about it.
4. **He/She Threatens to Hurt Themselves**-If someone tells you, "I'll kill myself if you break up with me," they're using fear and guilt in order to manipulate you.
5. **He/She Loses Their Temper Quickly**-Everyone gets mad sometimes, but if your boyfriend/girlfriend gets mad at you over the littlest things, then something's wrong.



6. **He/She Embarrasses You in Front of Others**-No one who loves you should ever make you feel bad about yourself. Doing it in public, by calling you names or making fun of you when other people are watching, is just mean.
7. **He/She Forces You to Have Sex**-Sex can mean a range of sexual activity, not just intercourse. If your partner forces you to do anything you don't want to do, get out of the relationship.
8. **He/She Keeps You Away From Your Friends**-Abusers know that if your friends found out the truth, they'd tell you to get out of the relationship. Abusers tend to have you push your friends away to protect themselves.
9. **He/She Looks through Your Phone**-No one (except your parents) has the right to monitor your calls and texts.
10. **He/She Does Anything That Scares You in Any Way**-This could be physical violence, just the threat of violence, harsh words or dangerous behavior of any kind.

For additional help, visit LoveIsRespect.org, call the National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline 1.866.331.9474, or text loveis to 22522.

Meet a Victim Advocate: Meggan Jewel-Lilly



Hire Date: January 12, 2015

Title: Part-time Domestic Violence Advocate

Hometown: Medina, Ohio

Education: I obtained a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice from The University of Akron in 2005.

Background: I began my career working at the YMCA with children in the before and after school care programs along with summer camps. Upon graduating, I was hired at the Victim Assistance Program. I worked in their Strategic At Risk Family Education program and then became a Juvenile Advocate, reading victim impact statements before the court.

Hobbies/Interests: I have two children Evan, 7, and Peyton, 4. I love to bake and they love to help!

Agency Spotlight:

Akron Children's Hospital-Respect. Teen Violence Prevention Program

The Akron Children's Respect program's goal is to interrupt patterns of violence by educating teens on healthy behaviors and choices for their dating relationships and friendships. It is a free, teen violence prevention program for Northeast Ohio high schools.

Respect hosts a biannual training to empower student leaders to raise awareness in their school and community about the impact of teen-dating violence, sexual assault and bullying. These student leaders create and implement ongoing activities at their schools and teach their peers about healthy and unhealthy dating relationships and bullying. They also provide tools to cultivate healthy relationships and become a re-



source for teens who may need help.

Their program also offers classroom and parent education, educator training and school policy assistance, as well as programs for professionals who work with youth in the community.

Akron Children's Respect program facilitates the implementation of Ohio's Tina Croucher Act, which requires school employees to receive education on preventing dating violence.

Their educator training program includes:

- a comprehensive description of the elements of teen-dating violence;
- identification of key abuse warning signs;
- types of student disclosures;
- assessment skills; and
- strategies to help both victims and perpetrators.

Schools may request a supply of teen-dating violence assessment flow charts, sample policy amendments and staff attendance certificates.

For more information, contact:

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