



August 2014

News from the Criminal Division

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Every child deserves the love and support of both parents. That's a sentiment that I share with all of my employees at the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and with CSEA employees and directors across Ohio.

We believe that, with proper support, both parents, whether custodial or not, can meet their obligations to their children. That's why we are constantly thinking of innovative programs to help parents overcome the barriers preventing them from making their child support payments. And that's why we collaborate with area nonprofit organizations and employers.

Each August CSEAs across Ohio recognize August as Child Support Awareness Month. In Summit County, we are hosting events to connect parents with the resources they need to be the involved, responsible parents their children deserve.

CSEA representatives have been working at informational booths at METRO's Transit Center on South Broadway Street and at the main branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library. At the booths, parents can get their case questions answered, establish paternity and even win some great prizes.

Don't worry if you can't make it to the booths! Our annual Child Support Solutions will be Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Ohio Means Jobs Center at 1040 East Tallmadge Avenue in Akron.

At Child Support Solutions, you can meet individually with a case manager to discuss payment arrangements

and support modifications. Our outreach coordinator will be available to administer a quick and painless genetic paternity test so you can establish paternity.

Representatives from the BMV will reinstate driver's licenses for those whose licenses were suspended for failure to pay child support. People with outstanding child support-related warrants can resolve those warrants without going to jail. And representatives from a multitude of federal, state and local agencies will be on hand to discuss resources to help attendees finish their education, get a new job and become a better parent.

Child Support Solutions is a great opportunity for anyone who's struggling to make child support payments or who has questions regarding their case. Parents can access programs to help them overcome the common obstacles to payment, such as unemployment, criminal records and lack of formal education and training.

I strongly encourage anyone with a child support case in Summit County to attend Child Support Solutions. We will be providing many valuable services, and all of them are free. Even if you can't pay the full amount that you owe, paying something is better than paying nothing. We will work with you to arrange a plan that works for you.

You can learn more about Child Support Solutions by visiting SummitCSEA.org.

Stay safe,



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Follow us on Twitter
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Tip from our Chief Investigator: Monitoring Social Media

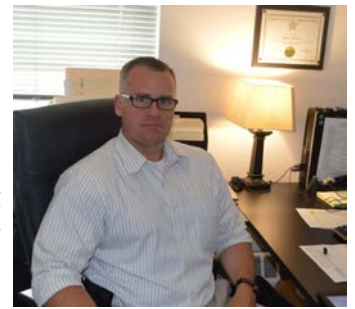
Most Americans use the Internet on a daily basis. Whether via desktop, laptop or mobile device, connecting to the Internet has become a top priority in our work and personal lives. Judging by the staggering number of registered users on Facebook and Instagram, it is safe to say that many people display their lives to friends and family via social media.

Social media can be a fun way to stay connected. But it can also open personal information to strangers. Depending on your privacy settings, a simple Facebook search can provide a range of information including your address, friends, family, children, cars and current location.

The amount of personal information that can be discovered on social media accounts can be particularly alarming to parents of younger children who are immersed in a world of data sharing and image posting.

Many parents are in the dark about their children's social media usage either due to a generational gap of technological understanding or unclear rules on parental monitoring between a child and his or her parent. Ignorance of your child's social media activities can open your child to the possible danger of online child predators.

Fortunately, there are simple methods parents can use to keep an eye on their kids' online activity. Installing monitoring software, adjusting privacy settings, establishing rules and maintaining clear-cut communication are just a few ways that parents can increase a child's online safety.



Chief Investigator Ben Bergeron

It is also extremely helpful to be familiar with the applications your children are most likely to use. If your kids are on any of these, create an account and friend or follow your kids.

Facebook: Extremely popular with users of all ages. Ever-changing privacy settings need continual monitoring. Contact information and current location can be exposed.

Twitter: Like Facebook, personal information is easily available unless privacy settings are correctly managed.

Instagram: An app that allows users to post and share photos. Photos can reveal user's exact location.

Tumblr: A blog site with few security features and a prevalence of pornographic and graphic language.

Snapchat: A messaging service that deletes messages from the user's device within seconds. Can be used for sexting and sending other inappropriate messages.

Tough Prosecution

These defendants are out of our community for a long time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

Glenn Wong, age 52

- Aggravated Murder (two counts)
- Murder
- Kidnapping
- Felonious Assault
- Domestic Violence
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **No parole eligibility**

Michael Petrie, age 33

- Aggravated Murder
- Murder
- Abuse of a Corpse
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **No parole eligibility**

Guilty at Trial in July

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:

Jon Baumoel

Brian LoPrinzi

Nick Buzzy (2)

Justin Richard

Pete Daly

Mike Rickett

Brad Gessner

Omar Siddiq

Great job, prosecutors!

Help us go green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by email.



August Top Cop

Top Cop: Detective John Canterbury

Nominated By: Chief Assistant Prosecutor (CSEA) Joe Fantozzi



David A. Cooper failed to appear for his arraignment on a charge of Nonsupport of Dependents in July 2011. The judge issued a felony warrant when he did not show up for court. Since then, law enforcement has been trying to locate Cooper and bring him to justice.

This June, Detective John Canterbury of the Norton Police Department noticed Cooper's profile

on the "Friday Find" section of our office's Facebook page. Detective Canterbury investigated and found a last known address for Cooper in Florida. Detective Canterbury provided the information to CSEA, who in turn contacted the local Florida police department.

On July 30, Florida authorities notified our office that they had apprehended Cooper. His extradition

to Ohio is underway.

Cooper owes \$24,417.99 in back child support for the care of his minor child. Thanks to Detective Canterbury, the mother of Cooper's child may soon start receiving the financial support she has gone without for so long.

Way to go, Detective Canterbury!

Agency Spotlight: Summit County Fatherhood Initiative

Children benefit when both parents are involved. However, the focus on parenting has historically focused more on mothers than fathers. The Summit County Fatherhood Initiative (SCFI) strives to provide men with the skills and resources necessary to be responsible and involved fathers.

SCFI offers specialized education for fathers, young fathers and incarcerated fathers preparing to re-enter society. There is also a program for mothers who wish to improve their relationship with the father of their children.

Parenting activities include special Father's Day events and the annual Fame Fathers Walk in September when dads walk or drive their children to school to show support for education.

SCFI provides a wealth of resources and programs for fathers, including mediation, father-to-father mentoring, job readiness and a recovery coach for fathers who need help achieving and maintaining sobriety.

Research shows that paternal engagement positively impacts a child's life in many ways. Children with involved fathers are more likely to achieve academic success. They are also less likely to participate in delinquent behavior and abuse drugs and alcohol.

Thank you to everyone who helps to make the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative a success!

For more information on the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative, visit www.SummitFathers.org.



Victim Services Division Internship

The Victim Services Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is seeking a volunteer intern. Duties include: preparing letters to victims, utilizing database, filing, making copies and victim advocacy.

If you believe you would enjoy this type of work and are interested in working in a criminal justice environment, please contact Crystal Baker at 330-643-8141 or baker@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

Meet an Employee: Jennifer Bheam



Jen and her nephew Grayson wearing green in support of Child Support Awareness Month.

Hire Date: March 1997

Title: Director, Child Support Enforcement Agency

Hometown: Springfield Township

Fun Fact About Me: I am an avid saltwater fisherman who spent a few weeks each summer as a teenager and young adult with friends who owned a shrimp boat. Almost 50 members of my family gather annually on the South Carolina coast for our very own SHARKWEEK fishing tournament, where we compete with each other in a surf fishing contest for a jackpot close to \$500. I can be found on weekends and evenings fishing for walleye on Lake Erie or catfish on Mogadore Reservoir.

Education: I hold bachelor's degrees in International Relations and Political Science from Kent State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from University of Akron.

Background: I began my employment at CSEA in 1997 as a temporary case manager and became a full-time employee shortly thereafter. I served CSEA in the capacity of case manager, compliance officer, assistant supervisor, enforcement supervisor and fiscal supervisor from 1997 through 2002. I then served the Prosecutor directly as Chief Fiscal Officer and later as Director of Administration-Finance from 2003 through 2008. In 2009 I returned to CSEA as Director. I have been a member of the Executive Board of the Ohio Child Support Director's Association since 2009, serving as President of the association in 2013. I have also been a member of the National Child Support Enforcement Association since 2009.

Job Duties: As Director of CSEA, it is my responsibility to ensure that the agency establishes paternity and support orders for all children born out-of-wedlock in Summit County, utilizes all available tools to enforce support orders, collects and distributes current and past due support to families, and continues to search for ways of functioning more effectively while maintaining a customer-friendly environment for our clients.

My Most Memorable Case: In 2011 I was on a "Good Morning America" segment about unclaimed funds. Prosecutor Walsh and I presented a woman with a check for \$8,249.50 for two years worth of child support payments. The woman's ex-husband had not been making his payments. When he started paying, we weren't able to find the woman because she had moved. With the help of "Good Morning America," we were able to locate the woman, give her a lump sum for the payments we had received and tell her that she would be receiving \$332 each month for the next six years.

To be there when this woman found out we had so much money for her was incredibly rewarding. She and her second husband had accepted that they would probably never get any financial support from the father of her two sons. The boys were grown and living on their own by this time. She was so thankful that we never gave up on her case.

Why I Wanted to Join the Prosecutor's Office: I remained with my father after my parents divorced. As a child of divorced parents, I feel it is important for our community to know that not all family members with support orders are fathers. Mothers owe support, too! This is one of many reasons I am committed to working with the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative (SCFI), serving as a member of their steering committee as well as chair of the Program Evaluation Committee.

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800