

SUMMIT CNTY
PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Summit County Land Bank—working to make our community better.
- Keeping Children Safe

SUMMIT
COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CIVIL DIVISION

TAX DIVISION

APPELLATE DIVISION

VICTIM SERVICES

53 University Ave.

Akron, OH 44308

330.643.2800



Civil Newsletter

From the office of
Summit County
Prosecutor Sherri
Bevan Walsh



W I N T E R 2 0 2 1

Summit County Land Bank

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to make our community a better and safer place to live. That includes making sure blighted property in neighborhoods throughout Summit County are addressed.

That's one reason why the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works with the Summit County Land Bank. In 2012, the Summit County Council established the Summit County Land Utilization Corporation ("Summit County Land Bank") and designated the Land Bank as agent for the county in the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of abandoned, vacant, and blighted properties which are tax delinquent. The Summit County Land Bank is one of 56 county land banks in Ohio.

The Summit County Land Bank is a private non-profit corporation created under Ohio law whose mission is to revitalize neighborhoods and communities, stabilize property values, reduce blight, return property to productive use, and improve the quality of life in our community.

To do this, the Summit County Land Bank identifies distressed properties that have

delinquent taxes and makes a request to the Summit County Fiscal Office to foreclose on the property. Upon verification of the tax delinquency, the matter is referred to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for preparation and filing of the foreclosure action. Ohio law also establishes an expedited process that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office uses in most cases where the action is filed with and heard before the Summit County Board of Revision. The Summit County Prosecutor's office typically accomplishes the transfer of the distressed property within (90) days in this administrative process versus the traditional court process with an estimated time frame of (9) months.



In 2015, Summit County Land Bank acquired and

demolished its first property as part of the Neighborhood Initiative Program. In 2018, The Summit County Land Bank demolished more than 250 abandoned and blighted residential properties. The Summit County Land Bank also put more than 250 properties back into productive use, returning an additional \$68,000 in taxes, annually which will continue to accrue to the benefit of Summit County. Since then, these numbers have increased substantially every year with Summit County realizing huge benefits because of it.

"The use of strategic community-building foreclosures to make our community stronger

and better-prepared for the future is something I think we can all be proud of,” Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh said of the Land Bank and the Prosecutor’s Office’s role in the process.

Neighbors are encouraged to contact their local community if they are concerned about an abandoned, vacant or blighted property in their area. The SCLB works closely with local communities in Summit County. For more information, call the Summit County Land Bank at 330).643.2546 or visit the agency’s website—www.summitlandbank.org.

General Land Bank Contact Information:

Phone: (330) 643-2546

Fax: (330) 643-8621

We've all heard the horror stories of child abuse and neglect. You've probably seen stories in the news or maybe have heard one first hand. But what you may not know is that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works with Summit County Children Services to protect those children and ensure that they are safe.

It normally starts with a referral to Summit County Children Services. Referrals can come from anyone: law enforcement, other agencies (schools, hospitals, counselors), and the public as a whole. All referrals are kept confidential and remain anonymous. Children Services will then investigate the allegations to determine if there is any merit.

If they believe that the children are in danger, a complaint is filed and the case is then referred to the Prosecutor's Office. During the duration of the case (which must have a decision within 90 days), Children Services develops a case plan for the family with goals and items they need to work on throughout their time. After the 90 day period, Children Services and the Prosecutor's Office continue to monitor the case, sometimes as long as 2 years to see what progress has been made. The final outcome depends on the effort of the family. Some outcomes could include reunification of the children with the parents if they were removed from the home, placement with a foster family, or permanent custody with another family. In other instances, the agency may not remove the children but work with the family providing protective supervision for a specified period of time.

Our office works with the agency to determine an appropriate placement for the children when it's necessary but the ultimate goal is to ensure that families are reunited. Above all, the goal of both is to make sure that the children are safe and protected.

Some important things to be aware of:

Cases are filed in Summit County Juvenile Court

Reports of abuse or neglect need to go to Summit County Children Services NOT Summit County Prosecutor's Office

Children Services can assist families regardless of whether or not a complaint is filed

The 90 day period consists of an initial hearing, trial, and disposition but not the subsequent review period or any issues that may arise afterward

If you want to report concerns of child abuse or neglect, call the Summit County Children Services 24-hour hotline at (330) 434-5437.