



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

# THE SENIOR NEWS



Elder Abuse is a crime. People who commit this type of crime are often related to or responsible for the elderly person they harm. Most victims of elder abuse depend on the people who hurt them, some-

times for food, shelter, personal care, or companionship.

There are many kinds of elder abuse. Physical abuse includes any kind of physical harm, such as slapping, pushing, kicking, punching, or injuring with an object or weapon. Elder Abuse also includes mental cruelty and psychological abuse. If someone humiliates, insults, threatens, ignores or treats an older person like a child, this is mental abuse.

Many of these cases go unreported, making it difficult to measure the scope of the problem. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project estimates that 5,188 cases of elder abuse or neglect occurred in Summit County in 2014. Of those cases, only 609 were reported to Adult Protective Services (APS).

Many victims do not report out of fear of retaliation. Victims are afraid they will be placed in an institution or are ashamed that a family member mistreated them. Sometimes people who believe that someone else is being abused don't report it because they don't know who to speak to, or just don't want to get involved. If you are a victim or someone who suspects abuse and neglect, it should be reported.

If you are being abused, or if you think someone else is being abused, tell your local police department. The Elder Abuse Hotline is 1-800-992-6978. The Adult Protective Services of Summit County is available to you at (330) 643-7217.

To better protect yourself and your loved ones, it is important to be able to identify some of the warning signs of abuse:

### ABUSE

- Multiple or severe bruises or burns
- Broken bones or wounds
- Injuries at several stages of healing
- Expression of fear by the adult
- Suicidal acts
- Confusion

### NEGLECT BY SELF OR OTHER PERSON

- Dirty, fleas, lice
- Bedsores
- Ulcerated sores
- Malnourishment
- Medications not being taken
- Fecal/urine odor
- Untreated medical conditions

### EXPLOITATION

- Misuse of person, funds, property, or possessions
- Caregiver has control of person's money
- Sudden change in person's finances
- Property missing from home
- New Will with new designations
- Misusing checks, ATM cards or credit cards

Start a buddy system where you and a close friend, close relative or neighbor check in with each other each day.



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Avery, The Prosecutor's Office Facility Dog, visited with residents of the Bath Creek Estates.

## Crimes Against the Elderly

Every day in our community many of our elders become victims of crime, abuse, and neglect.

But, thanks to the teamwork of the Assistant Prosecutors in my office, here are a few of the cases we have successfully prosecuted:

**Paul Reed:** Reed was found guilty of Murder and was **sentenced to Life in Prison** for the death of 69-year-old James Harris. Reed invited Harris to his home to purchase a car. Harris was lured into the basement where he was brutally attacked by Reed.

**Aaron Brooks:** Brooks was found guilty of Aggravated Burglary and sentenced **to three years in prison** for trying to break into an elderly victim's home. The victim came in from outside and found Brooks in her kitchen.

**Daniel Rey:** Rey pleaded guilty to Burglary and Receiving Stolen Property and was sentenced **to nine years in prison**. Rey robbed three West Akron homes while residents were in their yards. In two of the cases, Rey grabbed purses and used debit or credit cards immediately at gas stations, convenience stores, and a sporting goods store.

**Cindy Lou Orton:** pleaded guilty to Theft from the Elderly for stealing from a family member. Orton stole over \$50,000 in funds that should have been used to pay bills. In addition, Orton opened credit cards in the victim's name and charged several trips on them. Orton was **sentenced to 2 years community control**.

## LOOK FOR OUR BOOTH!

### WAKR Senior Luncheon

August 5, 2015

St. George Fellowship Center  
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Copley  
\$14.00

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; lunch at 12:15 p.m. Purchase tickets at WAKR, 1795 W. Market St., Akron, Ohio 44313 or send a check made out to WAKR Senior Lunch with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address above.

### Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo

September 4, 2015

Seniors 62 & older \$5 admission  
Seniors' caregivers \$7  
Free to Akron Zoo Members

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Consumer Federation of America's 2013 Consumer Complaint Report, the top complaints involving elderly victims were:

- Home improvement scams;
- Phony sweepstakes and lotteries; and
- Landlord/tenant disputes