



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Protect Our Seniors

1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported 12.4% of U.S. population is 65 years and older

See Abuse - Report It!

Your Reaction Makes A Difference

24 hour hotlines:

Summit County Sheriff Senior Services Division: (330) 643 - 2181		Summit County Adult Protective Services: (330) 643 - 7217
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SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

The safety of our senior citizens is one of the top priorities of my office. Every year, I designate September as Senior Safety Awareness Month to increase awareness of crimes against the elderly.

This year, my office has launched a new campaign: "Protect Our Seniors - See Abuse, Report It! - Your Reaction Makes a Difference." The mission of this campaign is to bring further awareness to the crimes committed against the elderly and to break down barriers that prevent seniors from reporting them.

Another objective of this campaign is to increase advocacy for seniors faced with fear or embarrassment that discourage them from reporting crimes, especially if a family member is involved.

Elder abuse is a national problem. Our population in the United States of people 65 years and older is 12.4%. Only one in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported. In 2017, Ohio had 16,241 reports of elder abuse. Elder abuse takes many forms: emotional abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse. My goal is to educate seniors about the risk of potential abuse while they are still active, independent and mentally competent. Important steps should be taken now for long-term care and powers-of-attorney. Pre-planning will ensure you receive the care you need and will prevent exploitation and crisis-mode decisions later.

Elder abuse is not just a family matter. As a community, we have a responsibility to prevent and report abuse against the elderly. Seniors should not suffer alone in silence. Work with me to protect our seniors from those who take advantage of them.

Look for us at these Upcoming Events and get your 2020 Senior Safety Awareness Calendar!



- September 6, 2019, 10am-2pm**
 Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo
 500 Edgewood Ave., Akron 44307
- September 12, 2019, 10am-1pm**
 City of Green Senior Expo
 Community Hall at Central Park
 1755 Town Park Blvd.
 Uniontown, 44685
- September 18, 2019, 1pm-5pm**
 Seniors & Caregivers Expo
 MGM Northfield Park (Center Stage Concert Hall)
 10777 Northfield Rd.
 Northfield, 44067
- September 25, 2019, 10am-1:30pm**
 Seniors & Caregivers Expo
 East Akron Neighborhood Dev. Corp.
 550 S. Arlington St., Akron 44306
- October 4, 2019, 8am-1:30pm**
 Summit Senior Expo at Summit Mall
- November 13, 2019, 11am-1pm**
 Senior Safety Fair
 Torok Senior Center
 4224 Massillon Rd., N. Canton 44720
- December 4, 2019, 11am**
 WAKR Luncheon
 Tangier Restaurant, 532 W. Market St., Akron
 (330) 869-9800, \$14.00
Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.
Purchase tickets at WAKR

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Visit our Senior Safety Website:
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



WAKR sponsored Senior Luncheon at the St. George Fellowship Hall on August 14, 2019

Crimes Against the Elderly



In April, 2017, an 85-year-old woman contacted a local company for a home health aid. Kelly Morris was hired. Over the course of several months, Morris convinced the victim to hire her independently at a lower cost and

then proceeded to steal over \$10,000 from her. On July 17, 2019, Morris pled guilty to Theft, Identity Fraud, Misuse of Credit Cards and Forgery. She was sentenced to **five years** in prison and ordered to pay restitution to the victim.



On the evening of November 16, 2017, a 59-year-old man was dropped off at the Baho Convenience Store in Akron. Jerry Alford and Dexter Moore followed the victim into the store and then

back outside where Alford shot and killed him. On February 27, 2019, jurors found Alford guilty of Murder and Moore guilty of Felonious Assault and Obstructing Justice. On April 17, 2019, Alford was sentenced to **Life** in Prison. Moore was sentenced to **five years** in prison.



On December 3, 2018, Jesse Williams forced his way into the home of a 62-year-old developmentally disabled woman. He then robbed and raped the victim. Williams was found guilty at trial by a jury and was sentenced to **11**

years in prison on July 29, 2019.

Domestic Violence Among the Elderly

Domestic violence does not discriminate. Male or female, rich or poor, young or old, domestic violence can happen anywhere in one form or another.

In May of 2018, Anthony Cole had an argument with his live-in girlfriend. The argument turned dark very quickly and Cole strangled and bit the 58-year-old victim causing significant physical injuries. On February 27, 2019, a jury found Cole guilty of Domestic Violence. On March 13, 2019, he was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Domestic violence takes on many forms of abuse: emotional, financial exploitation, neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

In 2011, Mickey Rooney, whose Hollywood career spanned almost nine decades and more than 300 films, filed a court protection order against his stepson Chris Aber. The 90-year-old Rooney accused Aber of withholding basic necessities, like food and medicine, while exploiting him financially. During his testimony Rooney stated, "Over the course of time, my daily life became unbearable...I felt trapped, scared, used and frustrated. But above all, I felt helpless. For years I suffered silently, unable to muster the courage to seek the help I knew I needed."



According to Rooney, one of the main reasons incidents go unreported is because you are not just dealing with your own fears but you are also dealing with family relationships. "Because of your love for other family members, you might feel hesitant to come forward," he said.

At the conclusion of his testimony, Rooney reached out to all individuals of his age. "To those seniors and especially elderly veterans like myself," he said, "I want to tell you this: You are not alone and you have nothing to be ashamed of. If elder abuse happened to me, it can happen to anyone. I want you to know that you deserve better."