



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich

The rise in the elderly population, coupled with the underreported cases of elderly abuse and neglect, is a growing concern. One in ten seniors is a victim of elder abuse, yet only one in 24 instances is reported.

Even though nearly three million Ohioans are over the age of 60, Ohio adult protective services agencies received only 36,000 reports of potential abuse last year. This suggests that tens of thousands of instances of elder abuse went unreported.

Financial exploitation, a “silent crime,” is a particularly prevalent and malicious form of elder abuse. The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that victims of financial abuse lose an estimated \$2.6 billion annually. Yet only one in 44 cases is reported.

Ohio has seen numerous cases whose seniors have been swindled out of their life savings, often by trusted family members or caregivers. These cases include identity theft, use of debit or credit cards, lottery scams, telemarketing or internet scams, and abuse of power of attorney. The National Adult Protective Services Association reports that elderly victims of financial abuse are three times more likely to die early and four times more likely to enter a nursing home.

Nursing home abuse also plagues many seniors. The World Health Organization reports that in the past year, one in six seniors experienced some form of abuse in nursing homes. In long-term care facilities, two out of three staff reported they committed abuse.

Our seniors deserve to live with dignity and respect. Anyone can report elder abuse by visiting <https://aps.ifs.ohio.gov> or calling **1-855-644-6277**. Callers do not need to provide proof and can choose to remain anonymous. To report suspected abuse in a nursing home or assisted living facility, contact the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman by visiting ombudsman.ohio.gov or calling **1-800-282-1206**.

Please join the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office in ensuring that older adults remain involved and included in our communities for as long as possible.



Since the beginning of the year, we have seen nearly 120 criminal cases involving persons aged 60 and over. There was a notable trend in home health aides stealing from their clients in addition to cases involving contractors.

In one case, Richard Wray-Johnson worked as a health aide for a 76-year-old woman. He created a cash app using the victim’s bank information and transferred approximately \$5,000 to his account without her consent.

In another case, a 77-year-old woman hired Neil Wolfe to do some work on her home. He requested additional funds throughout the process but never completed the work. After receiving \$7,741.50, he failed to show up to start the project. Wolfe was sentenced to 18 months in prison to run consecutively with another case he had in Portage County.

DID YOU KNOW?

The World Health Organization reported that in 2020, people aged 60 years and older outnumbered children younger than five years old. The world population 65 years and older is expected to reach 82 million by 2050, an increase from 12% to 22%.

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



Prosecutor Kolkovich recently met with the Riverside Alliance Church senior group to discuss scams and how to stay safe. Contact our office for a safety speech for your group.

OUTSMART THE SCAM!

The Outsmart the Scam event was created for YOU!

Your well-being affects how you age. A healthy mind and body can decide your future care. Taking an active approach to learning as much as you can about scammers, and ways to protect yourself, will give you more confidence in your judgment and capabilities.



Our office, in collaboration with the Summit County Executive, Summit County Sheriff, and Better Business Bureau, is presenting the first **Outsmart the Scam** event on **June 22, 2024**, from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, at **Stow City Hall, 2760 Darrow Road** in Stow. Presenters will include the Prosecutor, Executive, Sheriff and Dr. Licate from the University of Akron who will discuss technology in general.

Summit County's Office of Information and Technology will present on email scams, the most popular being phishing. You will have the opportunity to learn how the scam works, how to recognize it, and then what to do. You can also visit, ask questions, and discuss scams you have encountered with representatives from each of the different offices.

We appreciate our seniors and want to support your emotional and financial health with tips for staying safe. Please look for **additional** Outsmart the Scams that are being planned to help seniors gain more knowledge of the overwhelming number of scams in our nation as well as what to do if you are a victim.

2024 Women's Self-Defense Classes

June	Copley / Fairlawn
August	Cuyahoga Falls
September	Stow
October	Green
November	Barberton

For a full list of details, scan QR code below with your smartphone's camera. Or go to our website: prosecutor.summitoh.net under Innovative Programs.



Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

June 27, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
Seniors & Caregivers Expo
Kenmore Community Center
880 Kenmore Blvd., Akron

July 23-27, 2024, 12:00pm-11:00pm
Summit County Fair
1050 North Ave., Tallmadge

July 26-28, 2024, 12:00pm-9:00pm
African American Cultural Festival
Lock 3, Downtown Akron

August 2, 2024, 10:00am-2:00pm
Seniors & Caregivers Expo
Macedonia Senior Center
9691 Valley View Rd., Macedonia

August 20, 2024, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Free Women's Self Defense Class
Cuyahoga Falls High School
2300 4th St., Cuyahoga Falls

August 21, 2024, 6:00pm-9:30pm
Akron Canal Park
Rubber Ducks Bark in the Park
300 S. Main St., Akron
Adam will be there!

August 24, 2024, 11:00am-10:00pm
Akron Pride Festival
Main Street, Downtown Akron

September 5, 2024, 10:00am-12:00pm
Green Senior Expo
Raintree Golf & Event Center
4350 Mayfair Rd., Uniontown

September 6, 2024, 11:00am-3:00pm
Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo
505 Euclid Ave., Akron