



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor



ONE-DAY EXPUNGEMENT EVENT

Being charged with a felony offense is serious. Being convicted of a felony charge can change your life forever. So what happens when a person convicted of a low-level, non-violent felony does everything asked of them by the court and prosecutors? Should they be given a second chance?



We think so. We've teamed up with Summit County Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski for a one-day expungement event. This event is for people eligible under Ohio law to have their criminal case sealed or expunged.

"These are people we have convicted who have done everything we and the court have asked them to do. They've earned the right for a second chance," said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

"Being able to wipe the slate clean of a mistake made in the past is sometimes the only way that members of our community can move forward with their lives," said Clerk Galonski. "As the Summit County Clerk of Courts, I'm thankful to be able to assist people on that journey forward through events like this."

This one-day FREE expungement event is the first step for people with felony convictions in Summit County to have their record sealed if it meets requirements under Ohio law.

The following services will be provided:

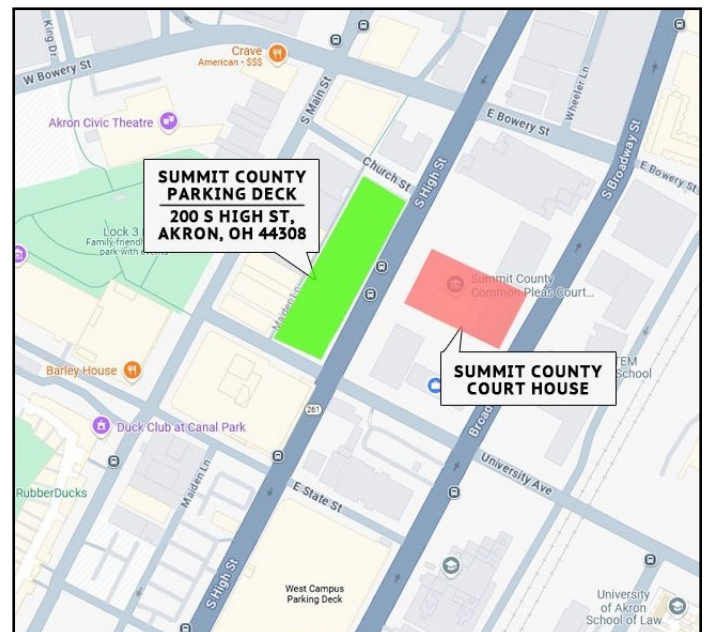
- Summit Legal Defenders will assist in sealing and expunging records as permitted by Ohio law.
- Summit County Executive's Department of Job and Family Services will provide information about job training and other local programs.

Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency will help with restoring driver's licenses.

Summit County Fiscal Office representatives will have Veteran ID Cards available with a valid DD214 (honorable discharge) plus two additional forms of ID.

Ohio law requires a \$50 filing fee to process all expungements, but that fee may be waived based on income.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Summit County Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom. The Summit County Courthouse is located at 205 South High Street in downtown Akron. Parking will be validated for those who park across the street at the County garage.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Congratulations to our very own Katherine White, who was honored by the Akron Chamber of Commerce 30 for the Future.

Katherine is an assistant prosecutor in our Child Support Enforcement Agency. She is seen here with Prosecutor's Office employees (left to right) Michelle Drago, Caitlin Croft, Jennifer Tultz, and Prosecutor Kolkovich.

The honorees were recognized for their early-career impact on Greater Akron through industry leadership, community involvement, and their forward-looking vision and optimism.



Congratulations to Katherine and all of the other honorees.

Close to 300 people attended the Summit County Prosecutor's Office 9th Annual Responding to the Needs of Victims conference.

The event, titled "Strengthening Response to Domestic Violence and Strangulation", was for people who interact with crime victims, including law enforcement, victim advocates, social workers, therapists, medical personnel, and attorneys.

Police Sergeant Denise Jones, who has extensive experience with domestic violence cases, presented on signs and symptoms of intimate partner violence as well as trauma-informed interviewing of victims and witnesses.



GUILTY VERDICTS

September 2024

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

Ryan Cash

Joseph McAleese

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is bringing back its Citizens Academy!

Citizens Academy provides a unique look at the criminal justice system and how criminal cases are prosecuted.

Join us on Friday, November 1 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Summit County Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom to learn more about the following subjects:

- The Criminal Justice Process
- How Cases Are Charged
- Prosecutor Ethics
- Sexual Assault Cases
- Domestic Violence
- Forensics
- Body Cameras
- Take a Tour of the Summit County Courthouse

To register, head to <https://bit.ly/488IKS4> or for more information call Mickey Valdez at 330.643.6506.

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2024 CITIZENS ACADEMY

CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Prosecutor’s Office Child Support Enforcement Agency attended the 2024 Ohio Fatherhood Summit in Columbus.

At the Summit, the mission for CSEA representatives was simple — to become Myth Busters and assist Ryann Levering-White, the Director of Public Policy at the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association, with her presentation on Child Support: Common Myths and Misperceptions.

The presentation focused on clearing up the most common myths or misconceptions concerning child support including these two:



One misconception is that once a child support order is set, people can get parenting time with their children. The truth is that generally, the Child Support Agency is not permitted to establish parenting time. Some counties can establish child support and parenting time together so long as the parties are in agreement.

Another misconception is genetic testing is too expensive. Either parent can complete a child support application and the Child Support Enforcement Agency will conduct genetic testing at no cost. CSEA will complete a free genetic test as long as there has not been a court order naming a father.

Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency representatives can discuss these issues, or anything else you need to know about your case.

If you have questions about your child support case, you can message the state’s customer service portal at <https://childsupport.ohio.gov/login.jsf> or call the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency at 330.643.2765 and leave a message with your case worker.

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office “Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice” was formed to bring co-workers of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors share thoughts to make our community a better place to live. Here is an article from one of the group’s members.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated September 15 – October 15 to recognize and celebrate the rich heritage of Americans with roots in 20 countries, such as Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. Although the official term “Hispanic” is what most of us are familiar with, it does not fully embody the wide range of diversity in cultures, races, or even languages which comprise this vibrant community.



It’s important to note that although the terms “Hispanic” and “Latino/a” are often used interchangeably, they do not mean the same thing. “Hispanic” refers to people whose ancestors are from any Spanish-speaking country while “Latino/a” refers to people whose ancestors are from Latin American countries and the Caribbean. This includes Brazil where Portuguese is the native language.

You might wonder why Hispanic Heritage Month is split between two months. The celebration coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of multiple Hispanic/Latin American countries: September 15 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; September 16 – Mexico; September 18 – Chile; and September 21 – Belize. Also within the month-long observation is Indigenous Peoples Day, which is celebrated in Mexico on October 12.

In the current climate of negative and divisive rhetoric that surrounds us, the Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice encourage you to seek out knowledge. Read about cultures that are different than your own. Experience festivals and traditions you have never encountered. Learn about art, music, food, and the many contributions from this community that has played important roles in our nation’s history since the time of the American Revolution. For more resources, visit the [National Museum of the American Latino](https://www.nmnl.org/).



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Tara Fought at tfought@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was just about in every corner of the County in September, providing safety information to hundreds of Summit County residents.

The office teamed up with Summit County Probate Court Chief Magistrate Steve Elliott for four Senior Safety Events. We were in Cuyahoga Falls, Akron, Green, and Twinsburg where we gave tips on how to avoid the latest scams. One big piece of advice if you get a call is don’t give information, get information.



Chief Magistrate Elliott talked about how seniors can protect their decisions and maintain their independence and whether they should, or can, avoid Probate Court. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Prosecutor’s Office representatives were at the Akron Zoo’s annual Senior Safari.

We love being at this event to talk about all the positive things the Prosecutor’s Office does in the community.



We handed out safety information, plus our anti-fraud pens, and fun puzzle books!

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office works hard to help those in need in our community.

Volunteers recently spent time at Akron’s OPEN M Ministry to serve food, something the office does several times during the year.

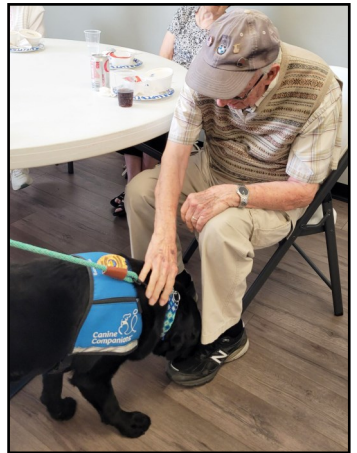


Prosecutor Kolkovich spoke with members of the Reminderville Seniors group about staying safe in the community and how to avoid scammers.

As part of his presentation, Prosecutor Kolkovich talked about what to do if you get a call from someone demanding either money or information.



He reminded people to not give information, but to get information. Also, have an emergency contact list with names and phone numbers of people you can trust—either family, friends, or someone at your bank who you can call to ask for advice.



The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office facility dog Adam was also there. Adam met lots of new friends.

Seniors who attended the Soap Box Derby’s Senior Day at Derby Downs got a chance to pick up safety information and some fun giveaways from our office.



Each year the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office declares September as Senior Safety Awareness month. The Office attempts to get to as many local events as possible.

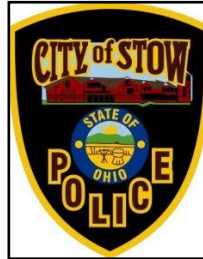
That included the Senior EXPO in Green. Attendees learned about the latest scams to avoid and picked up our anti-fraud pens.



TOP COPS

STOW DET. MIKE MURPHY & OFC. TAYLOR PAXTON & AKRON POLICE DET. JOSEPH SMITH NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. RIMMA AVANESYAN & JOVANA ILIC

This month's TOP COP nomination involves three officers from two different law enforcement agencies in Summit County. It shows how the collaboration between agencies is vital to holding offenders accountable and keeping Summit County safe.



reviewed city cameras and identified a license plate of the suspect's vehicle. That license plate was registered to a person living in Akron. They called Akron Police Detective Joseph Smith and requested assistance. Det. Smith found the vehicle and identified the defendant.

The case involved a road rage incident in Stow where police responded to a man being struck by a vehicle. The victim suffered several injuries and eventually needed surgery which resulted in a months-long recovery.

The case went to trial where jurors found the defendant guilty of vehicular assault and was sentenced to prison. Thanks to the diligence and hard work of all three officers, the defendant was held accountable for his actions.

Stow Detective Mike Murphy and Officer Taylor Paxton determined the driver responsible took off and was possibly in Akron. Det. Murphy and Ofc. Paxton immediately secured the scene and attended to the victim. Once they found out details of what happened, they

Thank you to Det. Murphy, Ofc. Paxton, and Det. Smith!

Great job and congratulations!

STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was honored to once again take part in this year's "Laura's Annual Summit County Stand Down Veterans Appreciation Day".

The 19th annual event brought together organizations throughout Summit County to help local veterans in need.

Laura Williams Dunlop, with the community's help, started the effort in 2005 to provide needed services and items to area veterans. Laura passed away in 2015, with the event bearing her name since then.

This year's Stand Down for Veterans provided assistance and much needed supplies, including toothpaste, soap, and clothing to hundreds of people.

We can't wait to take part in the 20th annual event next year!



Office of Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich
53 University Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44308
330-643-2800

Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

53 University Avenue, 6th Floor

Akron, Oh 44308

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