



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich

As we approach the holiday season and more people are shopping for gifts, it is important to be mindful of the increase in criminal activity. Pass these tips along to family and friends for staying safe every day, and especially during the holidays:

- Pay attention to your surroundings. Have your keys ready before you leave the store. Look around as you walk to your car.
- Pay just as much attention during the day as you would at night. Just as many crimes happen during the day as at night.
- Hold your purse firmly over your shoulder or put under your coat.
- Follow your instincts! If you get a bad feeling about someone while walking to your car, don't ignore it. Return to the store and find someone to escort you to your car.
- Shop with a family member or friend when possible and park near an entrance.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. It could be a means of distracting you to steal from you.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- If traveling over the holidays, stop newspaper and mail deliveries.
- If you are alone in your vehicle and someone bumps you from behind, or if your car breaks down, stay in your car and wait for help. If you do not have a cell phone, ask a passing motorist to call for help.

Property Fraud Protection

Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise warns citizens about an increase in title and deed theft fraud.

The scheme involves criminals filing a forged document to show a fake transfer of property ownership. Criminals then sell the home, take out a mortgage, or even try to rent it out. In some cases across the country, people have been charged with forging documents on dozens of homes at a time.

According to the FBI's 2023 Internet Crime Report, nearly 10,000 property owners and renters in the United States were victims of real estate fraud with losses totaling over \$145 million.

Scalise's office suggests signing up for a free Property Record Alert. The alert system will notify property owners through email when any documents are filed using their personal information. The automated email is sent to the homeowner and has details of what was filed.

The homeowner can then use that information to see if any fraud has been committed or if the filings are valid.

To sign up, property owners can visit the Fiscal Office's Self-Service Site at <https://summitcountyoh-web.tylerhost.net/web/user/disclaimer>, and click on Property Record Alert. Email alerts can be configured based on first and last names or business names.

Summit County residents who receive an alert that appears suspicious or fraudulent can contact the Summit County Fiscal Office Recorder Division by calling 330-643-2712 or emailing summittreas@summitoh.net.

You can also check with your insurance company to see if they offer a specific "Homeowner's Policy of Title" insurance to further protect you against this type of fraud. While this policy won't prevent title or deed fraud, it could eliminate the expense and hassle for the homeowner as the insurance company tries to resolve the phony title claim in court.

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



Prosecutor Kolkovich chatting with a member of the Riverside Alliance Church at their senior safety speech in March.

Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

December 11, 2024, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
WAKR Senior Holiday Luncheon
St. George Fellowship Hall
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Fairlawn 44333

December 17, 2024, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Safety Speech
St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus Council
17 S. Maple St., Scullen Room, Akron 44303

January 14, 2025, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Safety Speech
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1250 W. Exchange St., Akron 44313

March 15, 2025, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Stow-Munroe Falls Community Expo
Stow-Munroe Falls High School
3227 Graham Rd. Stow 44224



Join us for our free women's self-defense classes at the below locations. You are never too young or too old to learn simple techniques to protect yourself.

January 21, 2025, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
The Natatorium
2345 4th St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221

February 18, 2025, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Kenmore Community Center
880 Kenmore Blvd., Akron 44314

March 18, 2025, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Twinsburg High School
10084 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg 44087



Scan for our full class schedule
**For any questions contact
Tara Fought: 330.643.2787**



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SENIOR PROTECTION UNIT

The Senior Protection Unit was created in May 2022 to focus on cases involving seniors who are the victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The Unit works with Adult Protective Services (APS) to evaluate cases involving seniors who reside in the community. APS receives approximately 2,000 referrals every year of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation with a substantial amount of calls centered around either self-neglect or neglect by a caregiver.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is a firm believer in collaboration between county agencies. Collaborative efforts allow all of us to provide the best possible service to the County and ensure that we are all working together to protect Summit County residents.

With the holidays fast approaching, it is common to see an increase in referrals involving neglect. As always, if someone you know is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or if you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, please contact Summit County Adult Protective Services at (330) 643-7217.

What you may not know is that APS does not handle referrals for individuals who are placed in a long-term care facility. Those referrals are handled by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. If you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation in those situations, contact (800) 282-1203.