

WINTER 2026

Prosecutor's Post



Empowering Justice.
Strengthening Community.
Serving Summit County.



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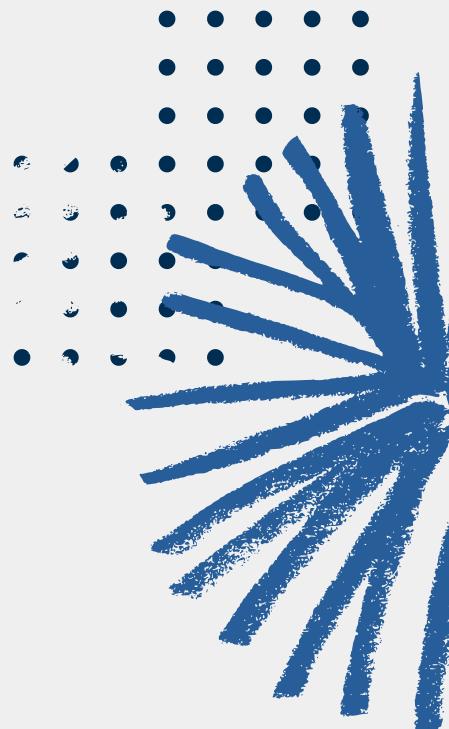
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Kolkovich's Corner

As the first year of my inaugural official term as Summit County Prosecutor comes to a close, I am proud to provide my second annual Fall Report.

As your County Prosecutor, I am committed to safeguarding our community with integrity, efficiency, and the best interests of Summit County at heart. My Office handles every case with respect, ensuring justice is served while fostering trust and safety.

To continue strengthening the community's trust in my Office, I want to provide insight into my key priorities, case results and data, ways we are engaging with the community, and how I am continuing to improve public safety throughout Summit County. That's why last year I published our inaugural Fall Report as part of my work to provide transparency to the public that I am so honored to serve. You can read the report on my [website](http://prosecutor.summitoh.net), prosecutor.summitoh.net.

From working to prevent crime and reduce its impacts, to getting violent offenders off the streets, to advocating for victims and the most vulnerable people in our communities, I will always fight to better protect and serve Summit County.



Elliot Kolkovich
Summit County Prosecutor
January 2026



Scam Alerts

Bank & Law Enforcement Impersonation

Recently, an elderly woman in Solon was robbed of \$12,000 by scammers. The woman received a phone call from someone claiming to be Chase Bank's Fraud Department. The scammer stated that someone was trying to wire \$9,000 from her account, and that she needed to go to a Chase Bank location in person to withdraw money to prevent the account hacker from accessing the money. They also told her she had to meet with an "FBI" agent who would secure the money at a nearby coffee shop. The woman realized it may be a scam after she had already turned the money over.

Banks will never call you and ask you to withdraw money in person to prevent wire fraud, nor will they ask you to turn over cash to someone outside of the bank. Law enforcement officers also will never call you and tell you to provide money in order to prevent a crime, nor to clear up a warrant or avoid another form of trouble.

Anytime you receive an unexpected call from someone claiming to be from a bank, law enforcement agency, or other organization that is demanding money, hang up and call back the organization at a trusted number to confirm if the call you received was legitimate. Remember, scammers can fake legitimate numbers, so don't assume the caller ID is correct.

Gift Card Scams

Scammers frequently pressure victims to purchase gift cards for fictitious payments. They may even tell you the gift cards will pay for a government fine, or overdue bill. Some even tamper with the packaging of physical gift cards to steal the information, redeeming the funds once someone purchases the card. A legitimate business or government agency will never demand payment via gift card. When purchasing a gift card for yourself or as a gift, be sure to check the packaging to ensure the PIN and other security information is still covered; register cards when possible to safeguard the balances; only buy gift cards directly from retailers or official websites; and avoid third-party balance-check sites, which are often used to steal card information.

Resources for Scam Survivors

- Ohioans can report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov.
- Visit the Better Business Bureau's online [Scam Tracker](#) to check their database of known existing scams, or to report a new one. The Better Business Bureau encourages victims to report scams regardless of loss amount to help track and stop criminal activity.
- If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, please contact your local police department. The Better Business Bureau also has an online [Scam Survivor Kit](#) that can help guide you through resources.

In the Community

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS CONFERENCE

Our 10th Annual Responding to the Needs of Victims Conference focused on Marsy's Law and its companion implementing legislation, House Bill 343. This legislation increased the number of crime victims who have constitutional rights in the justice system, and instituted additional mandates on many professionals, including but not limited to those in law enforcement, courts, probation, parole, and prosecution. Our conference identified the current legal requirements — including the utilization of the Victims' Rights Request Form — and discussed common difficulties in implementation within the system, lessons learned, and best practices to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to protect victims' rights at each stage of the court process.



"After ten years of putting on this conference, it is still so inspiring to see the continued education, connection, and collaboration that takes place amongst individuals who interact with victims/survivors of crime as a part of their daily work. This means that hundreds of thousands of victims/survivors are impacted in a meaningful and positive way, which is the goal of our annual conference."

—Crystal Baker, Director, Victim Services

In the Community

CITIZENS ACADEMY

Our annual Citizens Academy took place in November. Last year, we revamped our free Citizens Academy into an efficient and more accessible one-day event. The Academy offers insight into how the Prosecutor serves the community, and provides a hands-on experience where attendees learn how charging decisions are made, gain insight into plea negotiations, and learn more about our complex justice system. They tour the courthouse, hear from professionals who have expertise in their fields, learn about forensic evidence, grand jury proceedings, the use of body cameras, child support, victim services, prosecutor ethical obligations, sentencing, and much more.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice put on our Second Annual Trunk or Treat in October. The event included candy, games, and other spooktacular activities for families to enjoy.



In the Community

SUPPORTING THE AKRON CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK

Members of our Child Support Enforcement Agency volunteered over multiple days in November and December at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank to help ensure families in Summit County are able to access the food they need.

Beyond volunteering their time, CSEA members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3885 donated \$500 to the Foodbank.

"Year after year, the staff at my Child Support Enforcement Agency have shown what true generosity looks like. Whether it's volunteering at the local food bank, raising funds for Harvest for Hunger, sponsoring a family in need for the holidays, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, or serving meals to those in need, this team never hesitates to give back. Our Union's donation is just another example of their unwavering commitment to supporting Summit County families."

—Jennifer Tultz, Director, CSEA



SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Members of the Prosecutor's Office and the Child Support Enforcement Agency volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army of Summit County's Annual Red Kettle Campaign, helping to raise money for families in need of services right here in our communities.



Jennifer Tultz



2025 Sarah E. Fields Leadership and Advocacy Award Recipient



Our very own Jennifer Tultz was honored by the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association with the 2025 Sarah E. Fields Leadership and Advocacy Award. This award celebrates Jen's leadership, advocacy, and the lasting impact she's had on the program and the families it serves. Over her 17 years as Director of our Child Support Enforcement Agency, Jen has spent countless hours advocating for the children of Summit County locally, statewide, and nationally. She's known across Ohio as an expert on fiscal matters, and regularly shares her knowledge through trainings and presentations. She has advocated at the Ohio Statehouse to ensure the child support program has the funding and policies necessary to keep supporting families in our community.

Along with her dedicated work in Summit County, Jen has also held numerous leadership roles with the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association, including serving as president, chairing several committees, and continuing to serve as the Lifetime Fiscal Officer. She is well-known and respected by colleagues, peers, and policymakers across the state.

Please join us in congratulating Jennifer Tultz on receiving this award. Thank you, Jen, for your continued service to families in Summit County, and throughout the state!

Upcoming Events

Join us for events we are hosting throughout Summit County to serve our communities!

Our Events

Concealed Carry Workshop

January 21, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Patterson Park Community Center

Women's Self-Defense Class

February 17, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Riverfront Family YMCA

Senior Safety Speech

March 25, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Copley Town Hall



Child Support Enforcement Agency

Do you have child support concerns? Come see CSEA out in the community for assistance with general questions, DNA testing, job assistance, license reinstatements, and more.

Citizen's Circles

- **January 8, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.**
- **February 12, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.**
- **March 12, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.**
- **April 9, 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m.**

798 Grant St., Akron, 44311

Front Porch Re-Entry Meetings

- **January 20, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.**
- **February 17, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.**
- **March 17, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.**
- **April 21, 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.**

798 Grant St., Akron, 44311

University of Akron Valid Clinic

January 24, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

University of Akron Law School

Akron Ward 2 Community Meeting

March 25, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Polish-American Club

Questions About Child Support?

Travis Johnson (330) 643-8468

James Brewer (330) 643-8703

Adam's Yard

Adam is the Summit County Prosecutor's Office's Facility Dog. Adam is a highly trained assistance dog who helps victims and survivors, particularly children, feel at ease in Our office and the courtroom. The criminal justice system can be confusing and stressful. Adam's calming presence and unconditional love help victims overcome their fears and anxiety.



I got to meet a lot of new friends this fall, and that's the best part of my job! While a lot of the things I get to do are fun, I also had a lot of important work to do in the last few months. Some of my new friends I met because they were dealing with awful things, but that's why I do my job—to hopefully help them feel better, safer, and braver. I met with survivors of crime and sat in court with a few of them while they testified or sat in hearings and sentencing. I also attended events to help kids who were grieving the loss of their loved ones. While I wish none of my friends had to go through these things, I'm glad I could be there to give them lots of hugs and snuggles.

I also walked in the NAMIWalks of Summit County! The walk is to help raise awareness about mental health, which I know from my job is so important. Lots of people have times when they are struggling, but know you are not alone! It's okay to ask for help. I'm always happy to give someone a hug when they need it. If you or someone you love is struggling with their mental health, you can get help at the resources below.

**ADM Crisis Center
988 Lifeline
Call or Text 988**

**National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline
Call (800) 273-8255**

**NAMI Summit
County24/7 Free
Crisis Counseling
Text "NAMI" to
741741**



Photo courtesy of Marty Kurtz

Top Cops

Each quarter, members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office nominate law enforcement officers to be recognized for their exceptional work.



Officer Joseph Filimon

Akron Police Department

Officer Joseph Filimon was nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Amanda Koren for his above and beyond work to ensure a case had everything it needed to go to trial. Despite being a patrol officer and not a detective, Officer Filimon went to the site of an incident on his days off to acquire necessary documents and evidence, completed thorough supplemental reports, and often hand-delivered materials to the Prosecutor's Office himself. He participated in numerous extensive meetings regarding the case, and contacted the other officers involved to make sure they showed up for the meeting to prepare for trial. In any case Officer Filimon works on, it is evident that he truly cares about his work, often sacrificing his personal time if it will help a case.



Detective Tony Sutton

Akron Police Department

Detective Tony Sutton was nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Zachary Neumann for his persistence in delivering justice in the case of Mikayla Pickett, an 8-year-old girl that was killed when multiple individuals began shooting into a party that had hundreds of attendees in 2020. With multiple shooters and few witnesses due to fear for their own safety, Detective Sutton faced numerous complicated obstacles. Even so, Detective Sutton worked for years to bring answers to the family of Mikayla Pickett. Detective Sutton traveled to prisons, different states, and utilized his contacts in the community to figure out what happened and charge one of the individuals responsible for the killing of the victim. While nothing can bring Mikayla back, Detective Sutton's dedication helped provide Mikayla's loved ones with a small piece of closure.

Successful Trial Prosecutions

Congratulations to the following Assistant Prosecutors who obtained convictions at trial during October, November, and December:



Ben Carro



Charles Roman



Brianna Dietry (2)



Spencer Seide



Jovana Ilić (3)



Jeremy Veillette



Emily Williams



Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice

Seasonal Blues vs. Depression: Know the difference, and what you can do to help.

Christmas and New Year's are usually associated with joyful times with loved ones and the opportunity for a clean slate, but not everyone experiences this. Whether it's general anxiety over the holidays, negative emotions from childhood holiday memories, missing loved ones, or struggling with the cold, dark days and lack of sunshine, this time of year is difficult for many people. "Holiday Blues" are described as temporary feelings of sadness or stress experienced during the holiday season, and Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons — SAD begins and ends at about the same times every year, and is most common during the fall and winter months.

While Holiday Blues are temporary by definition, it's normal to worry about loved ones who seem to be struggling. And if you yourself are struggling, there is help available.

What you can do to help someone deal with Holiday Blues:

You can support individuals experiencing the Holiday Blues by encouraging self-care, fostering connections, and helping them manage expectations during this challenging time.

Tips for individuals dealing with Holiday Blues:

- *Plan ahead:* When you know what to expect and what is expected of you, you can limit—to some degree—what can go wrong or get out of hand. You can also make sure that you have time to do all the things you want to do and don't miss out on something, which could also end up creating more stress.
- *Take a breather:* The holidays can be a lot, so make sure when you start to feel overwhelmed that you seek out some alone time.
- *Get outside:* Although it's cold, venturing outdoors also gives you the opportunity to take part in certain activities and even spend more quality time with your loved ones.
- *Don't bottle things up:* Sometimes it feels like we must hold things in when we are frustrated and stressed in order to not upset anyone. However, that can be unhealthy and lead to even more stress.
- *Learn to say "No":* It's important to learn how to say "no" to things and prioritize your own physical and mental health. You should do the things you want to do but actively work to not feel pressured into doing things you don't want to or that you think will end up increasing your stress.

When it may be more serious:

It's normal to have some days when you feel down. But if you feel down for days at a time and you can't get motivated to do activities you normally enjoy, you could be experiencing depression. Even if you think the change is because of the season, you should see your health care provider. This is especially important if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed, you turn to alcohol for comfort or relaxation, or you feel hopeless. Summit County crisis counselors are also available 24/7 by calling or texting the number 988.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office's Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice bring together coworkers from different backgrounds and cultures, and foster education and engagement to make the community a better place.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU



Visit our website and connect with us on social media! Scan the QR code below:



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🌐 PROSECUTOR.SUMMITOH.NET

