



ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES 12 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ALLOWING KNOWN SEX OFFENDER TO RESIDE IN HOME WITH CHILDREN

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Kirstie Kandel, 33, of Barberton, was sentenced to 12 years in prison yesterday for allowing a sex offender to reside in a home with children present. In March, Kandel pleaded guilty to four counts of Endangering Children, Felonies of the 3rd Degree.

“Kirstie Kandel failed to protect these children. She knew the danger this individual—a convicted sex offender—posed, yet allowed him to remain in the home and even took steps to shield him from law enforcement. My office will always work to hold accountable those who endanger the safety of our children,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

From October 2024 to July 2025, Kandel knowingly allowed a convicted sex offender, Seth Chio, to enter and reside in a home with children present. Chio is a Tier III Sex Offender due to previous convictions for Rape, Sexual Battery, and Gross Sexual Imposition. On two occasions, when officers came to the home asking if Chio was there, Kandel lied and attempted to conceal him from law enforcement. When pressed further, Kandel would admit Chio was hiding in the basement. Chio allegedly committed sexual acts against the children during his time in the house.

Chio, 38, of Youngstown, is set for trial on October 6, 2026.

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