



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

July 2008

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

Every year, my Office designates the month of August as Child Support Awareness Month.

This August, the Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Prosecutor's Office, is partnering with a number of state and county agencies to bring something very exciting to Summit County: **Child Support Days**.

A two-day opportunity for parents to take the right step toward supporting their children, *Child Support Days* will be on August 22 and 23, and will be held at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. This opportunity is being funded by the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.

Parents can work out their child support payments, get their driver's license reinstated (if suspended for child support purposes only), resolve outstanding warrants (for child support only) and learn about employment and training. The theme for Child Support Days is "Take the right step...we'll meet you there."

We are bringing the system and its services to the church so clients can easily navigate and resolve outstanding issues. For those working out cases, there will be Child Support Specialists who will have remote access to child support records; BMV will be there to reinstate driver's licenses; those who turn themselves in on outstanding warrants will have the prosecution and defense on site, along with Common Pleas Judge Tom Teodosio and Domestic Relations Court Magistrate Deborah Matz to handle their case right on site.

Other partners include Oriana House, which will help us with client outreach, the Department of Job and Family Services, which will be offering employment and training information, and Sheriff's Deputies who will assist with processing and security.

We are also thankful to Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church and Bishop Neal for offering us their facilities and providing volunteers to help direct individuals to where they need to go. Many churches within the Akron area are also helping us to get the word out about the importance of attending Child Support Days!

If you, or someone you know need to take the right step, we'll meet you there!

CSEA Child Support Days
Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
270 E. Wilbeth Road, Akron

Tough Prosecution

Since Prosecutor Walsh took Office in 2001, child support collections have increased from \$85.4 million in 2000 to \$94.8 million in 2007. That amount includes \$14 million collected from more than 2,300 parents who have been prosecuted for Criminal Non-Support.

Prior to 2001, the ability to prosecute parents who continually dodge their responsibility to their children was rarely used as an enforcement tool. While it's not the first tool we utilize, CSEA has found it an effective tool against those who perpetually abuse the system and evade their child support obligations.

These Parents are Outrageous!!

Help us help the children of Summit County! The following individuals are Criminal Non-Support fugitives, parents who refuse to work with CSEA to meet their obligation to their children:



Absent Parent	Date of Birth	Arrears Owed
David Callihan (Barberton)	12/18/57	\$ 51,061.42
Martin R. Howe (Cuyahoga Falls)	4/04/54	\$ 63,569.16
Darrell A. Johnson (Akron)	4/16/67	\$ 51,991.83
John Livingston (Akron)	8/22/73	\$ 61,740.36
Jerry A. Test (Australia)	11/01/61	\$ 56,263.86
Anthony Washington (Akron)	7/23/67	\$ 54,205.60

If you have any information on the whereabouts of these absent parents, please contact CSEA Investigator Ken Howe at 330-643-8472.

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer:
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor

Top Cop

Officer Joshua Miktarian
Twinsburg Police Department

**Nominated by: Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan
Walsh and Staff**



My Office has a great relationship with the Twinsburg Police Department. In fact, earlier this year, I presented Chief Noga and his officers with the "Top Cops of the Year" award.

I found myself in Twinsburg again this month, but on a much more somber note. I announced the indictment of Ashford Thompson for the murder of Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian. Among those charges is a specification for the death penalty for Aggravated Murder.

Officer Miktarian, 33, was killed in the line of duty on July 13, during what appeared to be an ordinary traffic stop, when Thompson shot him four times in the head. Officer Miktarian's partner, K-9 Bagio, was still in the cruiser. The killing of Officer Miktarian marked the first death of a Summit County officer in the line of duty in 17 years.

My Office works closely with all our law enforcement partners around the county. We are firm believers that it should never be a part of an officer's job to be spit on, kicked, hit, or assaulted in any manner – simply for doing their job. It certainly was not part of Officer Miktarian's job to give his life in a senseless, needless killing, to leave his wife without a husband and his daughter without a father.

Since the news of his death, the citizens of Summit County have stood with law enforcement officers to show their support and appreciation of their work. This solidarity, I believe, shows that we all stand together, against those who want to harm those who dedicate their lives to keeping us and our communities safe.

In his high school yearbook, an 18-year-old Joshua Miktarian listed one of his ambitions as being "the best law enforcement officer this side of the Mississippi." He dedicated his life to achieving that goal. He spent his career doing so in Uniontown and Twinsburg. Officer Miktarian — "Captain Justice" or "Mr. Invincible" to many, "The Pizza Man" to others — will be missed by all of us.

Thank you, Top Cop. We will miss you.

GUILTY!

*Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors Beth Aronson (2), Tom Bown, John Green, Charlene Hardy (2), Shauna Hill, Margaret Kanellis, Brian LoPrinzi, Kevin Mayer, Greg Peacock, Angela Poth-Wypasek, Justin Richard, Jennie Shuki, Omar Siddiq, Mike Todd, and Mike Tripi, who each had juries return **guilty verdicts** at trials in June! WOW!*

GREAT JOB, ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS!

MEET CRIMINAL NON-SUPPORT ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS

Alissa Amsden

Position: Assistant Prosecutor

Hire date: October 2007

Hometown: Newton Falls,
Ohio

Law degree: University of
Akron

Little known fact:

I am the proud mother of two nearly recovered autistic children. I spent three years solely "practicing" natural medicine and nutrition, rather than practicing law, in order to ensure that my sons would eventually lead "normal" lives.

Prosecuting CNS cases is important because:

Everything a child becomes (or doesn't become) as an adult, has its foundation in his childhood. The child that is raised without proper food, clothing, housing, education and therefore self-esteem is destined to become an adult with little to give his own family, as well as society. Children need and deserve a parent's support, both emotionally and financially.



Ryan Stickel

Position: Assistant Prosecutor

Hire date: July 2007

Hometown: Stoutsville, Ohio

Law degree:
Capital University

Little known fact:

I did nearly two years of criminal defense work in Columbus before coming up here (and hated every minute of it).

Most memorable case:

State of Ohio v. Jose Romero. Jose was on one of our Most Wanted billboards, and had a hearing on the docket in Judge Cosgrove's court. After being told there was no way he'd be stupid enough to show, I was shocked when I arrived at court and he was there. I had him arrested in the courtroom.

His defense was a novel one: since he was an illegal alien subject to deportation, he obviously couldn't work, and therefore shouldn't have to pay child support. He obviously wasn't too confident in that defense, as he ran before trial, and remains at large.

**Thanks for all your hard work,
CNS Assistant Prosecutors!**

