

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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CSEA arrests first female fugitive pictured on CSEA “Most Wanted” billboards Found hiding in Kentucky

(February 13, 2008, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that **Dawn M. Newman**, 32, of Greenup, Kentucky, was arraigned this morning on one charge of Criminal Non-Support, a felony of the fifth degree. Newman was arrested at her residence in Kentucky on January 29 by a U.S. Marshall's Service deputy and Greenup County Sheriff's deputy. She was extradited to Ohio by a Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) investigator.

Newman was indicted for Criminal Non-Support and a warrant was issued for her arrest on June 15, 2007. At the time of her indictment, she owed \$11,871.54. She currently owes \$13,514.70 to two children, ages 11 and 13, who are in the custody of their father. Her last payment was made in August 2004 in the amount of \$50. An anonymous tip provided information regarding Newman's whereabouts.

“Obviously, I am more than pleased with the results of our CSEA “Most Wanted” billboard campaign,” Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh said. “As of today, we have arrested 10 individuals’ who have been pictured on our “Most Wanted” billboards.”

Walsh continued, “Finding these people depends in large part on citizens doing the right thing by providing information to my Office. Unfortunately, these individuals – both men and women – take enormous measures to hide themselves from the custodial parent, from CSEA, from law enforcement, and often from their own children, in order to avoid paying child support. It is my greatest desire to see these individuals working and supporting their children. CSEA goes to great lengths to avoid reaching the criminal non-support phase. In fact, cases usually run years before they reach this point, but once it becomes clear that other enforcement measures are not working, we take steps to charge them with criminal non-support. Additionally, I believe it is important that others who owe child support see that I am serious about collecting it.”

In addition, investigators from the Summit County Child Support Agency today arrested **Donald Ludington**, 56, of N. Howard Street in Akron, Ohio, after receiving an anonymous tip regarding his whereabouts. Ludington is featured on one of the Child Support “Most Wanted” billboards located around the Akron area. Ludington has an outstanding warrant for **Criminal Non-Support**, a felony of the fifth degree, in the amount of \$20,708.

Ludington currently owes \$21,244.61 to three children. Two of his children are adults, for whom he owes back support. He also owes support to another child who is 17. His last payment was made on April 10, 2006, in the amount of \$123.40.

In addition, three other individuals who have been pictured on the “Most Wanted” billboards since December have been arrested.

Gregory Peeples, 27, of Las Vegas, Nevada, was arrested in late December by U.S. Marshall’s deputies and extradited back to Ohio on January 9. Peeples had been a fugitive since October 2005, when he was indicted on one count of Criminal Non-Support in the amount of \$14,016.

Jerrold Ellis, 33, of Birmingham, Alabama, was arrested February 1. Ellis had been a fugitive since May 2006, when he was indicted on one count of Criminal Non-Support in the amount of \$30,169.

Giovanni Diaz, was arrested when he appeared unexpectedly in Juvenile Court. Family members alerted a Juvenile Prosecutor that he was featured on the billboards. Diaz had been a fugitive since October 2006, when he was indicted on one charge of Criminal Non-Support in the amount of \$9,594.

The August billboards also netted five arrests:

Mark Amos, who owed one child \$9,201, had been wanted since October 2004. He was placed on two years of Community Control after he pled guilty to a felony charge of criminal non-support.

Samuel Bennett, who owed two children \$43,177, was extradited from Florida. He was placed on three years of Community Control after pleading guilty to a felony charge of criminal non-support. Bennett’s warrant was issued in April 2006.

John Summerville, who owed one child \$23,333, also turned himself in after seeing his picture on the billboard. His warrant was issued in September 2005. His case was dismissed after the custodial parent said that she did not want to prosecute.

Jose Romero, who owed two children \$8,798, was arrested locally on a warrant that was issued in April 2006. Another warrant was issued when Romero failed to appear in court on January 11. He has become a fugitive again.

Karl Dovich Jr., who owed one child \$12,370, saw his picture on the billboard and turned himself in on the warrant that was issued in February 2004. On December 12, he was placed on two years of Community Control.

The Criminal Non-Support Program has collected more than \$13 million since 2001. Last year, Summit County CSEA indicted 355 individuals for Criminal Non-Support and collected almost \$3 million dollars.