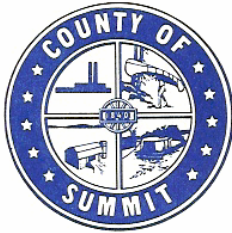


# **SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

## **Prosecuting Attorney**

County of Summit



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## **ALERT!**

With unemployment rates at high levels across the country, many people who have been laid off from their jobs have signed up for unemployment benefits. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has recently been notified of a national scheme targeting recipients of unemployment compensation benefits.

Some recipients are receiving fraudulent text messages on their cell phones. These bogus messages claim to be from state unemployment agencies telling recipients that their unemployment benefits have been suspended and to call the provided phone number to reactivate. When people call, they are asked for personal information, including debit card numbers and personal identification numbers (PIN). At that point, unemployment benefits deposited on the debit card are accessed and withdrawn by the scam artist.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) are warning its customers that representatives will never ask for their debit card information or their PIN. ODJFS and state officials are working with the debit card provider, U.S. Bank, to further protect, inform and educate customers.

If you receive one of these bogus messages, do NOT respond. If you suspect funds have been inappropriately accessed, call the customer service number provided on the back of your debit card: (866) 276-5114.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts and other useful information from my office, please call (330) 643-2796.

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.

Visit our website for a list of past alerts.

<http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/srcitsafe.htm>