



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Collaboration is the Key to Success

"Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much." Hellen Keller.

Over the years, my office has been fortunate enough to work with so many excellent organizations throughout Summit County, one of which is Summit County Adult Protective Services (APS). APS works to protect adults who are 60 years of age and older from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Department of Justice noted that older adults are mistreated in a variety of settings (homes, nursing homes) by family members, friends and neighbors, professionals, and strangers. Elder abuse can result in premature death, the deterioration of physical and psychological health, destruction of social and familial relationships, and devastating financial loss.

My office works with APS in order to help secure protective services through the Court process if and when necessary. This may result in the filing of a protective order to ensure that the abuse, neglect, or exploitation is stopped while an appropriate course of action is decided. Throughout this process, APS continues to work with both the adult and my office in order to secure the best possible outcome. APS also has a vast network of contacts for services that may be beneficial for the person in question.

APS works tirelessly to combat elder abuse in Summit County, receiving on average over 2,000 referrals of suspected elder abuse each year. In some cases, an APS specialist may be assigned to conduct a meeting with the adult to determine if there is a need for protective services. Through the course of their investigation, it may also be determined that criminal charges should be filed. In those situations, APS will work with detectives from the Summit County Sheriff's Office who in turn work with my office to determine what charges should be filed.

The sad reality is that older adults continue to be targets for abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Unfortunately, COVID has exacerbated the issue. Services and programs were suspended as people were no longer allowed to enter homes for health and safety reasons. In some cases, older adults were locked in homes with their abusers. Scammers also took advantage of the isolation. My office works with law enforcement to evaluate these types of cases for criminal prosecution.

From 2019 to 2021, my office handled nearly 1,429 criminal cases involving victims who were 60 years of age and older. Charges ranged from theft, assault, domestic violence, misuse of credit cards, and more.

In order to effectively combat this type of abuse we all need to work together. Check on your loved ones and neighbors. If you suspect any form of abuse or neglect, I strongly encourage you to make a referral to APS. Make sure to have the adult's name, age, address, the nature and extent of the alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and the basis for the caller's belief that the adult has been abused, neglected, or exploited.

For more information go to: <https://www.summitdjfs.org/services/adult-protective-services.html>

If someone you know is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or if you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, contact Summit County Adult Protective Services at (330) 643-7217.

**Elderly Americans lost
\$1 billion in online scams in
2020!**

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Visit our Senior Safety Website:
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Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecutor Attorney Sherry Bevan Walsh

Call our office (330) 643-2800 or email hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net if you did not get your 2022 Senior Safety Calendar.

SCAM ALERT!

Spring is finally here! The weather is improving, the temperature is rising, the snow and ice are melting. Unfortunately, the temperature isn't the only thing that's increasing. Across the country, there has been an increase in scams. Scammers use a variety of tactics to try and deprive people of their money and assets. They tend to target those who are isolated and vulnerable. They use fear and panic to their advantage. Sometimes they have just enough information to convince you they are genuine. To avoid falling victim to one of these scams, know what to look for and how to protect yourself.

Types of Scams

Lottery - You receive a call telling you that you've won a substantial amount of money, a car, or a house. All of it will be yours but only after you pay to cover any number of expenses, such as shipping, insurance, or taxes.

Romance - Social networking and dating sites can be a great way to meet people. They can also be used to convince people to send money to their new partner. An online love interest who suddenly starts asking for money is a definite red flag.

Tech Support - The out of the blue call about an issue with your internet, phone, computer, or other electronic device. The "technician" asks for permission to access your computer or asks for user ID and passwords to "diagnose the problem."

Money and Financial - Someone from Social Security, the IRS, or your banking institution calls or emails needing "verification." They threaten to suspend your payments or access to your account unless you provide the necessary information.

Pet - A common ploy to get your money involves individuals claiming to be breeders. They ask for money upfront as a deposit to hold the animal and then do not provide the animal. Another scam involves the criminal claiming to have lost their pet to tug on your heart strings. They will then ask for money to help locate the animal.

Family - One of the worst scams out there, someone calls claiming that your loved one has been kidnapped, hurt in an accident, or is in jail and they need money to provide assistance.

Scammers will try a variety of methods to try and get you to part with your money or assets.

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself.

- Look for spelling and grammatical errors in websites and emails
- Don't use the call back number provided by the scammer. Instead, go to the company's website or a trusted directory to find a valid number
- Hang up
- Reach out to trusted sources to verify information provided to you

And remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

If someone you know is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or if you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, contact Summit County Adult Protective Services at (330) 643-7217.

Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

March 11, 2022, 7:00pm

Prosecutor Walsh's Scams Speech
201 W. Streetsboro St., Hudson

May 11, 2022, 11:00am

WAKR Senior Lunch
St. George Antiochian Church
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Copley

May 21, 2022

10:30am-12:30pm

Bark in the Park at Lock 3
Avery will be there!

June 4, 2022

10:00am-4:00pm

21st Annual Pet Expo
Hardesty Park
1615 W. Market St.
Avery will be there!

