

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Woman Who Left Toddler in Road Sentenced to Four Years in Prison

(June 29, 2012... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a jury found Melissa D. Swiger, 33, of Doty Drive in Akron, guilty of Aggravated Vehicular Assault, a felony of the third degree; Failure to Stop After an Incident, a felony of the fifth degree; Operating Under the Influence, a misdemeanor of the first degree; and Child Endangering, a misdemeanor of the first degree. The Court also found Swiger guilty of Reckless Operation of a Vehicle, a minor misdemeanor and Running a Red Light, a minor misdemeanor.

On November 2, 2011, Swiger set her three-year-old child in the middle of Waterloo Road and drove away. A passerby saw this, picked up the child and called 911. Just 15 minutes later Swiger crossed the double yellow line on South Main Street and crashed into a truck. The driver of the truck is now in a wheelchair.

Swiger ran from the scene of the crash to Holy Cross Cemetery, where she was found by two Sheriff's deputies. Because Swiger was babbling incoherently, the deputies sent her to the psychiatric ward. Tests revealed a large amount of marijuana in Swiger's system.

After receiving the verdicts, Judge Lynne Callahan sentenced Swiger to four years in prison.