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Summit County Child Support Collects \$35 Million from Indicted Parents

Prosecutor Walsh committed to fighting for families

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, April 03, 2015) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) has reached a major milestone. CSEA has collected over \$35 million from criminal non-support cases since the Criminal Non-Support Unit was created in 2001.

“Child support impacts a third of all children in Ohio, second only to the public education system. Child support collections are vital for families,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “My Criminal Non-Support Unit continues the aggressive prosecution of parents who refuse to support their children.”

The Criminal Non-Support Unit, a division of CSEA, prosecutes parents who are at least \$5,000 behind on their child support payments and have not made a payment in more than six months. Prosecution is a last resort after other enforcement tools – such as driver’s license suspension, income withholding, liens and tax offsets – are exhausted. While the license suspension program is very effective for a number of parents, as of September 2014, over 88,000 obligor parents in Ohio had their driver’s license suspended. Over 56% of these individuals did not make any payments the prior year and 93% paid less than half of their obligation.

The results of Summit County’s Criminal Non-Support Unit prove that aggressive prosecution works. “But if you are a parent who is required to pay support and are finding it difficult to make those payments, especially when you’re unemployed or under-employed, please contact CSEA to explain your circumstances and let us help you remove the barriers to non-payment through services such as our Family Support Matters program,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Don’t wait until it is too late.”

About CSEA

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency collects nearly \$84 million annually and handles more than 49,000 child support cases. Each year it establishes support orders for approximately 4,000 children. You can learn more about CSEA on its website:

<https://co.summitoh.net/prosecutor/index.php/divisions/child-support-enforcement>.