



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Teen Sentenced to 8 Years in Prison for Burning Baby**

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, December 27, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Todd McKenney sentenced Demetrius Ford, 18, of Cumberland Drive in Akron, to eight years in prison for burning his four-month-old daughter.

On November 29, 2016 a Summit County jury found Ford guilty of the following charges:

- Felonious Assault – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Child Endangering – felonies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

“This innocent child suffered significant, painful injuries. She will have to deal with the physical and emotional scars for the rest of her life,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “A father’s main goal should be to protect their child from harm, not cause pain. Mr. Ford will spend many years in prison thinking about what he did to his own daughter.”

In February of 2016, Ford, who was 17-years-old at the time, was giving his four-month old daughter a bath. The infant suffered severe second and third degree burns to her face, shoulders, and chest. At trial, a child abuse expert testified the baby was purposefully submerged in the scalding hot water. Investigators also discovered the baby suffered a skull fracture and broken ribs.

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The child's mother, 21-year-old Chavelle Grier, was also charged in the case. On May 10, 2016, Grier pled guilty to two counts of Child Endangering and is currently on probation.

On July 27, 2016, Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio ruled Ford was not amenable to rehabilitation in the juvenile court and the case was bound over to Summit County Common Pleas Court.