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**NEWS**  
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**Paternity testing being offered at area hospitals  
through Child Support Enforcement Agency**

(Akron) ... Mothers and fathers can now have genetic testing done right at the hospital shortly following the birth of their child.

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh is announcing a new community outreach program offered by the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), a division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, which provides genetic testing services at hospitals throughout Summit County. Summit County CSEA is the first CSEA in the state to make such services available.

Prosecutor Walsh said, "In Summit County, approximately 42 percent of the births in 2008 were out-of-wedlock. This program targets these out-of-wedlock births to establish paternity early for children so that their legal rights are secured. Paternity establishment guarantees that a child is eligible for benefits from Social Security in the event of the death or disability of either parent, and provides parents and children with access to the medical history of both parents should future medical issues arise."

The program began operating May 15, 2010 at Akron General Medical Center and is now being expanded to Summa Barberton Hospital. Akron City Hospital has also been contacted to partner with CSEA on the program. Paternity establishment is also extended to other facilities such as the Louis Stokes Department of Veterans Affairs Domiciliary, and the Oriana House, which are both serviced by the Summit County CSEA Outreach program.