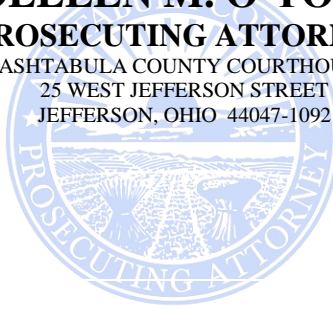


**Interim Chief Assistant, Criminal Div**  
Dawn P. Cantalamessa  
**Criminal Division**  
Gene Barrett  
Christopher R. Fortunato  
Matthew Ameer  
**Juvenile Court Division**  
Tamara A. Wetherholt  
**Children Services Division**  
Richard R. Danolfo  
**Civil Division**  
Rebecca K. Divoky  
Catherine R. Colgan  
Matthew J. Hebebrand  
Laura Plzmohr  
**Appellate Division**  
Shelley M. Pratt

**COLLEEN M. O'TOOLE**  
**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

ASHTABULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
25 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
JEFFERSON, OHIO 44047-1092



**Telephone**  
(440) 576-3662  
**Criminal Division Fax**  
(440) 576-3692  
(440) 994-6041  
**Civil Division Fax**  
(440) 576-3600  
(440) 994-6021  
**Children Services Division**  
(440) 998-1811  
**Tax Division**  
(440) 576-3734  
**Victims/Witness Assistance**  
(440) 576-3523  
Hattie Eisweirth, Director  
(440) 576-3223

May 16, 2022

Immediate Release  
Contact – Colleen M. O’Toole  
216/509-5433

**IN RE: In regards to A.W.**  
**Case # 2021 A 26**

The office of Colleen M. O’Toole, Ashtabula County Prosecutor and Assistant Prosecutor, Shelley Pratt has won its appeal in the 11<sup>th</sup> Appellate District in regards to the case involving A.W. (Children’s names are by statue confidential), affirming custody to Children Services (ACCSB).

The appellate Court held that the Appellant’s fifth Amendment privileges were not violated as alleged. The Appellants right against self-incrimination does not foreclose the trial court’s ability to make a reasonable dispositional custody decision tailored to the best interests of the child.

Prosecutor Colleen M. O’Toole is satisfied that the decision is consistent with Ohio Law. Prosecutor O’Toole and the Sheriff’s Office are dedicated to protecting children in all neglected, abused cases.