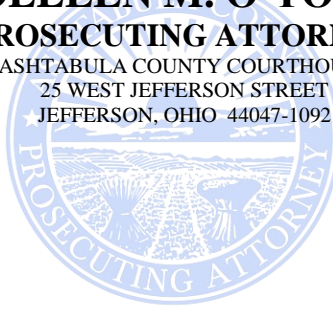


Chief Assistant, Criminal Div
Dawn P. Cantalamessa
Criminal Division
Gene Barrett
Christopher R. Fortunato
Matthew Ameer
Matthew Hebebrand
Juvenile Court Division
Tamara A. Wetherholt
Children Services Division
Richard R. Danolfo
Civil Division
Catherine R. Colgan
Laura Pizmoht
Daniel Maynard
Jessica H. Fross
Michael Bodyke
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
Stephanie Sagraves
(440) 576-3223

August 11, 2022

Immediate Release

Contact – Prosecutor Colleen M. O’Toole

IN RE: Meet us at the fair/Back by popular demand

Colleen M. O’Toole, The Ashtabula County Prosecutor will have a booth at the Ashtabula County Fair alongside the Sheriff’s Department presents a “What Was I Wearing” exhibit that is composed of recreated outfits that Ashtabula survivors wore when they were assaulted as a reminder that what was worn is not, in fact, the problem. What a person was wearing does not justify sexual assault, nor does it put the blame on the survivor. This exhibit’s goal is to help spread the message that victim-blaming is not welcome in our community.

The exhibit is powerful, enlightening, and brings the viewer back to the time immediately before a victim is sexually assaulted by a sexual predator. The exhibit outlines and dispels bias and old-style thinking around the assigning of guilt, shame, and blame experienced by victims. It also delves deeper into the unfair justification by some in blaming them for what has happened to them due to their dress, location, behavior or employment. The exhibit illustrates quite blatantly the actual innocence and unjust victimization of those who suffer. I encourage everyone to stop by the Ashtabula County Fair and see the exhibit. The Ashtabula County Fair is being held August 9, 2022 to August 14, 2022.

This exhibit will be dedicated to all those who have the courage to come forward and tell their story.