



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer sentenced **Fredrick D. Thomas (D.O.B. 12/31/1984)** to 55 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of First Degree Murder. Thomas was convicted of two counts of First Degree Murder after a bench trial in front of Judge Schafer in April of 2021.

On September 11, 2018, Rockford Police Officers responded to an apartment in the 900 block of 10th Avenue after a report of an unresponsive female. Upon arrival, officers found Jennifer Lewis, who was deceased. A Winnebago County Coroner's autopsy found that Lewis died as a result of multiple blunt force trauma injuries. During the course of the investigation, the defendant, Fredrick Thomas, was developed as a suspect. Detectives determined that Thomas began battering Lewis on September 10, 2018. The beatings continued for several hours before the defendant called 911 to report that Lewis was unresponsive.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence imposed must be served at 100% and be followed by a term of three years of mandatory supervised release.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Alison Meason and former Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Gibson handled the prosecution.

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