



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**April 26, 2024**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Perry G. Johnston (DOB: 11/16/1960)** was found guilty of Aggravated Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Death, Reckless Homicide, Aggravated Use of an Electronic Communication Device and Obstructing Justice after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Phillip Nicolosi.

On March 25, 2016, Rockford Police officers were dispatched to the area of Trainer Road and Fincham Drive after a report that there was someone lying in the roadway. Upon arrival, officers located a male, later identified as Willie White, lying face down in the roadway. He was transported to a Rockford hospital, but later succumbed to his injuries. Police located several pieces of a vehicle, near where the victim was lying in the roadway. During the investigation, the defendant, Perry Johnston returned to the scene and told police that he was the one who hit Johnston. Johnston was driving a 2004 BMW, which matched pieces of the vehicle found at the scene. The vehicle was also located inside the garage at Johnston's residence. Detectives searched Johnston's cell phone records and found that he was using it at the time that Mr. White was hit.

Aggravated Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Death is a Class 1 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 4-15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by a year of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Reckless Homicide is a Class 3 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 2-5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by six months of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Aggravated Use of an Electronic Communication Device is a Class 4 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 1-3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by six months of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Obstructing Justice is a Class 4 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 1-3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by six months of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Johnston is scheduled to be back in court on June 13, 2024, in front of Judge Nicolosi in Courtroom 311 of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.



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The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Joe Lesner and Joe Carder handled the prosecution.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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