



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**February 14, 2025**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that, despite the defendant's failure to appear, the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer sentenced **Jerry D. Hudgens (DOB: 1/27/1982)** to 16 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Armed Habitual Criminal. The defendant will also be on mandatory supervised release for three years after he is released from prison. The sentenced must be served at 85%. Hudgens was convicted of Armed Habitual Criminal, Driving Under the Influence and Improper Lane Use after a jury trial that the defendant also chose not to appear for in December of 2024. There is an outstanding warrant for Hudgens arrest.

On October 22, 2021, a South Beloit Police Officer responded to Gardner Street and I-90 for a traffic accident. Upon arrival, Officers met with the defendant, Jerry Hudgens, who was standing near a black Ford van, looking at the front tire. While speaking with Hudgens, officers did not understand him and suspected he was under the influence. Hudgens was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence. Officials later learned that Hudgens had PCP in his system at the time of the accident. Hudgens also had a loaded firearm in his vehicle. He was previously convicted of Armed Robbery and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon in Cook County, Illinois. Hudgens chose not to appear in court for his trial.

Armed Habitual Criminal is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by 18 months of Mandatory Supervised Release. Hudgens will be required to serve 85% of any sentence imposed by the Court.

Driving Under the Influence is a Class A Misdemeanor that is punishable by up to one year in the Winnebago County Jail.

The South Beloit Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Andrew Marcum and Emily Palmer handled the prosecution.

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