



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
August 27, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Christopher L. Ware (DOB: 10/16/1961)** was found guilty of Aggravated Domestic Battery, Domestic Battery and Unlawful Restraint, but not guilty of Attempt First Degree Murder after a two day jury trial before the Honorable Judge John Gibbons.

On October 12, 2024, Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the 5100 block of Zenith Parkway in Machesney Park for a medical alert. Upon arrival Deputies located a female victim on a bed in the bedroom. She reported that a domestic battery had occurred and deputies observed severe trauma to her face and neck. The victim's eyes were swollen shut, her entire face was swollen including her lips so that she could hardly speak. The victim was able to tell police that the defendant, Christopher Ware was the person who attacked her. During trial, the victim told the jury how Ware became angry and grabbed her, ripped out some of her braids, grabbed her by the neck with both hands and squeezed, shoved his thumbs into her throat, and punched her in the face multiple times, all while threatening to kill her. During the attack, the victim lost consciousness. The victim was transported to the hospital to be treated for two facial fractures. She had to undergo treatment by a specialist in order to recover from the damage the defendant caused to her face.

Aggravated Domestic Battery is a Class 2 Felony that is punishable by an extended sentence of 3-14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, served at 85%, followed by four years of mandatory supervised release. The defendant is eligible for Class X sentencing on these charges. Class X felonies are punishable by 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Domestic Battery is a Class 2 Felony punishable by a sentence of 3-7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by four years of mandatory supervised release.

Unlawful Restraint is a Class 4 Felony punishable by an extended term sentence of 1-6 years followed by a year of mandatory supervised release.

Ware is scheduled to be in court for post trial motions on 10/29/26 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Gibbons in Courtroom D of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.



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The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Alison Meason and Joseph Carder are handling the prosecution.

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