



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**March 6, 2026**

**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Willie L. Smith, Jr. (DOB: 11/24/1975)** was found guilty of two counts of Criminal Sexual Assault and not guilty of one count of Criminal Sexual Abuse after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

On May 22, 2023, Cherry Valley Police were dispatched to Asha Salon at 7160 Harrison Avenue after a report of a sexual assault. Upon arrival, officers met with a female, who advised she had been sexually assaulted by massage therapist, Willie Smith, Jr. She told police Smith touched her inappropriately with both his hands and his tongue. During trial, the victim bravely recounted the events of the day of her massage. She shared she was in shock and became frozen in fear as a result of the defendant's actions. Under cross examination, Smith admitted to the allegations, and said he did so with no warning and without the victim's consent.

Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class 1 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 4-15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by a term of mandatory supervised release of three years to natural life, plus lifetime registration as a sex offender. The sentence on each count of Criminal Sexual Assault must be served consecutively, and truth in sentencing at 85% applies.

Smith is scheduled to be back in court on April 24, 2026, before Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Cherry Valley Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Emily Palmer and Nathaniel Huss are handling the prosecution.

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