



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
September 21, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Jennifer Clifford sentenced **Dameria L. Giwa-Finley (D.O.B. 11/21/1995)** to 20 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for First Degree Murder and 364 days for misdemeanor Criminal Damage to Property for damaging the property of Diandre Grant. Upon completion of her prison sentence, Giwa-Finley will also serve a term of three years of Mandatory Supervised Release as required by Illinois law.

The case arose from a September 30, 2020, domestic incident in the 1900 block of West Riverside Boulevard in Rockford. Rockford Police officers responded after Giwa-Finley called 911 and reported that her fiancé, Diandre Grant, had been stabbed. Officers entered the apartment and found Grant lying on the floor between the bedroom and bathroom, covered in blood and suffering from multiple stab wounds. A blood-covered knife was recovered near his feet. Grant was unresponsive and was later pronounced deceased. During a subsequent custodial interview, Giwa-Finley admitted that she and Grant had argued, acknowledged slashing the tires on his vehicle after he began packing his belongings, and admitted returning to the apartment with the knife before claiming she went to bed. At trial, Giwa-Finley asserted that she acted in self-defense.

Following a bench trial, Judge Jennifer Clifford found Giwa-Finley guilty of First Degree Murder and misdemeanor Criminal Damage to Property on November 20, 2023. First Degree Murder is a Class M felony punishable by 20 to 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and is not eligible for day-for-day sentencing credit. Defendant will also have to serve three years of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Misdemeanor Criminal Damage to Property is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a sentence of up to one year in jail or probation for 2 years.

The investigation was conducted by the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted by First Assistant State's Attorney Kenneth W. LaRue.



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