



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Micah Gillespie (DOB: 7/6/1993)** was found guilty of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon after a three-day jury trial before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Clifford. Prior to trial, the charges against the defendant were severed and the jury was asked only to determine the defendant's guilt on Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon. Other charges of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm and Aggravated Battery related to the same incident remain pending and are subject to future proceedings. The defendant remains innocent until proven guilty on the remaining two charges.

On October 9, 2022, Rockford Police responded to an apartment on Garrett Lane for a reported shooting. Multiple calls came in that a woman had been shot by Micah Gillespie, who fled in a white pickup truck. Upon arrival, the victim was locked inside her apartment, and unable to answer the door. Officers forced entry and observed her with a gunshot wound to her leg. She was transported to the hospital to be treated for her injuries. During trial, forensic evidence was presented which tied a firearm that was later found in the defendant's residence to a shell casing found at the scene of the shooting on Garrett Lane. Separate forensic DNA analysis tied Gillespie to that weapon. The victim did not testify at trial but, through the hard work of Rockford Police investigators and various professionals at the Illinois State Police Crime Lab, evidence was presented of Gillespie's involvement in the shooting. At the time of these events, Micah Gillespie was a convicted felon and it was not lawful for him to possess a firearm.

Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon is a Class 3 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 2-10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by a year of mandatory supervised release. The defendant is not eligible for probation on this offense.

Gillespie is scheduled to be back in court on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, before Judge Clifford in Courtroom C of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Alex Ronning and John Finley are handling the prosecution.



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