



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
October 1, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **David A. Zurek (DOB: 12/12/1969)** was found guilty of one count of Aggravated Battery after a bench trial before the Honorable Judge John Gibbons.

On March 5, 2024, Rockford Police responded to an apartment in the 1400 block of Charles Street for a welfare check on the defendant, David Zurek. While inside the apartment, Officers observed a female, holding her hand in a container. The defendant told police he was fine. Shortly after midnight, a few hours later, Officers were dispatched to a Rockford Hospital to meet with a female who was being treated for burns. At the hospital, the victim told police that Zurek doused her with lighter fluid and lit her on fire. She was able to put the flames out with a shirt and walk herself to the hospital. The victim suffered burns to her right hand and wrist. In a call from jail several days later, Zurek admitted he set the woman on fire.

Aggravated Battery count is a Class 3 Felony that is punishable by an extended sentence of 2-10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by six months of mandatory supervised release.

Zurek is scheduled to be back in court for post trial motions on November 16 at 11:00 a.m. before Judge Gibbons in Courtroom D of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Alison Meason is handling the prosecution.

CONTACT PERSON:

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney
815-319-4700