



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
August 24, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **David Cruz-Santos (DOB: 5/9/1989)** was found guilty of one count of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault after a bench trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

In June of 2023, Rockford Police Officers responded to a residence in the 300 block of South Alpine Road for a sexual abuse complaint against the defendant, David Cruz-Santos. A child victim disclosed that Cruz-Santos had sexual contact with her several times over two years. During the victim's testimony at trial, she shared how Cruz-Santos would touch her, and at the time, she didn't realize it was inappropriate. The victim also told the court she told her mother after she learned that the defendant's behavior was not appropriate.

Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class X Felony that is punishable by an extended sentence of 6-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years to natural life of mandatory supervised release. The sentence must be served at 85%.

Cruz-Santos is scheduled to be back in court on September 17, 2026, for post-trial motions before Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Emily Palmer and Jennifer Gadow are handling the prosecution.

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