



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

April 20, 2026

State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Grand Jury recently returned a bill of indictment against **John E Ieppert (D.O.B. 12/11/1954)** that includes charges of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child and Grooming.

In March, Winnebago County Sheriff's Detectives met with an adult female who reported the defendant, John E. Ieppert, sexually abused her when she was a child. The victim was between the ages of 4-6 years old at the time of the abuse. In addition to the sexual abuse, the victim reported that Ieppert would force her to watch pornographic movies with him.

Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a special sentence of 6-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by up to natural life of mandatory supervised release.

Grooming is a Class 4 Felony that is punishable by an extended term of 1-6 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by six months of mandatory supervised release.

Ieppert is scheduled to be arraigned on the bill of indictment on May 6, 2026, before the Honorable Judge John Gibbons in Courtroom D of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Carder is handling the prosecution.

The charges are merely allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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