



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**July 3, 2025**

**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer sentenced **Stephen M. Croom (DOB: 1/11/1980)** to a total of 36 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on three counts of Criminal Sexual Assault. The defendant will also be on mandatory supervised release for 3 years to natural life after he is released from prison. Croom was convicted of the charges after a jury trial before Judge Schafer in September of 2022.

In December of 2018, Rockford Police Officers began investigating a report of a sexual assault. Officers met with the victim who reported she had met the defendant, Stephen Croom, online. The victim lived in Wisconsin and came to Rockford to meet with Croom. She reported that while at the defendant's residence she began to feel dizzy and had trouble walking so she laid down. The victim advised that the defendant sexually assaulted her while she was at his residence. She identified a photograph of the defendant as the suspect and DNA collected after the offense from her underwear was consistent with that of the defendant.

Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years to natural life of mandatory supervised release. Croom was sentenced to 12 years on each count to be served consecutively and at 85%.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Kirstin Krivanec handled the prosecution.

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