



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that on December 14, 2022, **Lucas Northcott (DOB 5/1/1978)** was sentenced for the offenses of Criminal Damage to Property, Theft, Violation of an Order of Protection and two counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Clifford.

On May 30, 2019, officers with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department spoke with D.H. who reported a violation of an order of protection. Officers learned that D.H. obtained an order of protection in Boone County against her then husband, Lucas Northcott. As part of the order of protection that was granted in Boone County, Northcott was required to turn over to D.H. a motorcycle. Northcott did not readily turn over the motorcycle and instead kept it, stripped the motorcycle of its tires, rims, and brake rotors. Northcott also scratched several different locations of the motorcycle, cut the leather seat, and cut the engine belt. The defendant was charged with theft, criminal damage to property, and violation of an order of protection. At the time charges were filed, no other information relating to domestic violence had been disclosed.

On March 25, 2021, officers of the Rockford Police Department met with D.H., who was the ex-wife of Lucas Northcott. Officers had become aware of domestic violence within her relationship with Northcott stemming from an unrelated investigation. During the interview, D.H. disclosed several past incidents of domestic violence. In addition to other incidents that were not able to be charged due to statute of limitations, officers learned that on April 25, 2018, Northcott struck D.H. several times, cut her hair, and tattooed her body in several areas resulting in permanent disfigurement. Officers also discussed a time when officers were dispatched to the hospital on December 1, 2018 in reference to D.H. having a closed head injury. D.H. told police that she had originally lied to the responding officer at the hospital when she claimed she had been mugged. She informed officers that what really had happened was Northcott struck her repeatedly causing the injuries, as well as choked her and tried to suffocate her with a pillow.



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Northcott pled guilty to two counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery relating to the two incidents in 2018 and Criminal Damage to Property, Theft, and Violation of an Order of Protection relating to the incident from 2019. There was no agreed to sentence and the case was set over for sentencing. At sentencing, the State requested that Court make specific findings allowing the Court to impose permissive consecutive sentencing. In order for the Court to impose permissive consecutive sentencing, the Court must find that: "If, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and the character of the defendant, it is the opinion of the court that consecutive sentences are required to protect the public from further criminal conduct by the defendant..."

Judge Clifford made the finding that permissive consecutive sentencing was appropriate and sentenced the defendant to serve 7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on one count of Aggravated Domestic Battery and 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on the other Aggravated Domestic Battery charge. Each sentence is to be served at 85%. Judge Clifford also sentenced Northcott to 3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections to be served concurrently for the charge of Theft, Criminal Damage to Property, and Violation of Order Protection case.

The Rockford Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Ali Friend handled the prosecution.

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