



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
April 25, 2022
State's Attorney J. Hanley

***Contains strong language and adult themes.**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that on April 22, 2022 **Carl DeFay (DOB: 9/4/88)** was found guilty of the offenses of First Degree Murder and Concealment of a Homicidal Death after a jury trial in front of the Honorable Judge Randy Wilt.

In August 2017, law enforcement personnel received information that Carl DeFay and his wife Cortney Daughenbaugh had been involved in the death of a woman with the initials S.S. Law enforcement personnel located the remains of Samantha Swan in a pig feeder on a farm in Durand where DeFay and Daughenbaugh had been renovating the farm house.

Cortney Daughenbaugh told detectives during the investigation and told the jury during the trial that in February 2017 during a "threesome" initiated by DeFay, she witnessed DeFay kill Samantha Swan at the farm house by strangling her with his hands and a belt. DeFay then dragged Samantha outside where he later started to burn her body. DeFay and Cortney then loaded Samantha Swan into a pig feeder where DeFay covered her with concrete, dirt, straw, and insulation.

DeFay had previously committed domestic violence, including incidents of strangulation, against Cortney as well as an ex-wife who also testified during the trial.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony punishable by 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Any sentence to the Department of Corrections is to be served at 100% consecutive to all other sentences and is followed by 3 years of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Concealment of a Homicidal Death is a Class 3 Felony punishable by probation or 2-5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Any sentence to the Department of Corrections is to be served at 50% and is followed by up to 12 months of Mandatory Supervised Release.



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DeFay is currently serving a 6 year sentence to the Illinois Department of Corrections for Aggravated Domestic Battery. He also now remains in custody without bond pending sentencing on the First Degree Murder and Concealment of a Homicidal Death convictions.

The case is set for status on May 12, 2022 at 2 p.m. in Courtroom 478 in the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The case was investigated by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and the Rockford Police Department and the prosecution was handled by First Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue and Assistant State's Attorney Melissa Voss.

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