



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**October 21, 2022**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that today **Eugene N. Heffron (DOB 10/12/1939)** was found guilty of three counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse following a jury trial before Judge Debra Schafer.

The defendant, a longtime Rockford ice skating coach and former Olympian, was accused in 2018 by three of his former skaters of sexual conduct that occurred over several years. The defendant was found guilty of conduct against one of his students who was between ages 9 and 15, during the years 1999 and 2006. A second skater was also allowed during the trial to tell her account of the defendant's sexual conduct of her between 2004 and 2005 when she was 15 and 16 years of age.

The case is set for sentencing on January 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center. The sentencing range is between 3 and 7 years in prison but are probationable. Trial dates for the remaining two victims have not yet been set.

The Illinois State Police conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Ken LaRue handled the prosecution.

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