



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
March 29, 2022
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Nickles Parks (DOB: 04/22/1992)** has been found guilty of the offense of First Degree Murder and Concealment of a Homicidal Death on March 29, 2022 after a jury trial in front of the Honorable Judge Ronald White.

On December 10, 2018 Deputies with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department responded to the 9200 block of Knapp Road, Winnebago, Illinois where they located the deceased body of Jamie Stephens (DOB: 12/09/1987) in a ditch off the roadway. Detectives assigned to the case determined that Nickles Parks was one of the last to have contact with Jamie Stephens. Officers located a 2011 Chrysler 300 that belonged to Nickles Parks hidden in a garage in Rockford, Illinois. After a thorough examination of the vehicle, it was discovered that on December 07, 2018, Jamie Stephens died in that vehicle after having suffered multiple gunshot wounds. It was also discovered that Nickles Parks and Joshua Whittie were the other two occupants of the Chrysler at the time Jamie was shot to death.

Joshua Whittie (01/02/2000) had previously plead guilty to the offense of Armed Robbery in connection with the death of Jamie Stephens. He is currently serving a 20 year sentence in the Illinois Department of Corrections on that charge.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony punishable by 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. An additional fifteen (15) years is added onto any sentence imposed based on the defendant possessing a firearm. Any sentence to the Department of Corrections is to be served at 100% and will be followed by 3 years of Mandatory Supervised Release. Concealment of a Homicidal Death is a Class 3 Felony punishable by 2-5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and is to be served at 50% consecutive to the murder conviction. The case is set for a status hearing on April 11, 2022 at 8:30 in Courtroom 316.

The case was investigated by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and the prosecution was handled by Assistant State's Attorney Amy Ohtani and First Assistant State's Attorney Kenneth Larue.

Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office
815-319-4700