



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 **Payton J. Hatch (DOB: 7/3/2001)** was sentenced to four years and six months in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer. As part this sentence, Hatch will be on mandatory supervised release for three years and have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He was found guilty of two counts of Criminal Sexual Assault after a jury trial before Judge Schafer in April.

In September of 2020, South Beloit Police Department Detectives launched an investigation after two females reported that they had been sexually assaulted. It happened at a home in the 5200 Block of Hutchinson Drive in South Beloit. The defendant, Payton Hatch, was developed as a suspect. The investigation was reviewed by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office and Criminal Sexual Assault charges were authorized.

Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class 1 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 4-15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years to natural life of mandatory supervised release. The sentence must be served at 85%.

The South Beloit Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Emily Palmer and Andrew Fisk handled the prosecution.

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