



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 **Randi Steele (DOB: 6/19/1956)** was found guilty of Home Invasion and Violation of an Order of Protection after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Jennifer Clifford. He was acquitted of separate counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery causing great bodily harm and Aggravated Battery to a person over 60 years of age.

On September 23, 2022, Randi Steele climbed the backyard fence of a home in Machesney Park and approached the back door. He was court ordered by an order of protection to stay at least 300 feet away from that residence as well as the homeowner, his ex-girlfriend. Steele shattered the glass of the back door, which the victim had attempted to barricade, and unlawfully entered the residence. Steele walked through the residence, toward the woman, who was in her bedroom armed with a firearm. As Steele approached the victim, she discharged the firearm to defend herself and a struggle ensued over the gun. Steele was shot three times before he disarmed the victim. She grabbed another gun, which misfired, but she used it to strike Steele in the head. The two continued to struggle until deputies forced entry into the home to get the victim out safely. The victim bravely testified at trial to the harrowing ordeal, and overcame the trauma of her attack in the presence of her abuser.

Steele is scheduled to be back in court on August 30th, 2024, for a sentencing hearing in front of the Judge Clifford in Courtroom C of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

Home Invasion is a Class X Felony that is not eligible for probation, and is punishable by 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by at least 18 months of mandatory supervised release. Violation of an Order of Protection is a misdemeanor.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Alex Ronning and Luke Ranard are handling the prosecution.

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