



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**December 4, 2024**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Jerry D. Hudgens (DOB: 1/27/1982)** was convicted of Armed Habitual Criminal, Driving Under the Influence, and Improper Lane Use after a jury trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

On October 22, 2021, a South Beloit Police Officer responded to Gardner Street and I-90 for a traffic accident. Upon arrival, Officers met with the defendant, Jerry Hudgens, who was standing near a black Ford van, looking at the front tire. While speaking with Hudgens, officers did not understand him and suspected he was under the influence. Hudgens was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence. Officials later learned that Hudgens had PCP in his system at the time of the accident. During a subsequent search of Hudgens' vehicle, officers located a loaded firearm between the driver's seat and center console. Hudgens was previously convicted of Armed Robbery and Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon in Cook County, Illinois. He chose not to appear in court for his trial.

Armed Habitual Criminal is a Class X Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by 18 months of Mandatory Supervised Release. Hudgens will be required to serve 85% of any sentence imposed by the Court.

Driving Under the Influence is a Class A Misdemeanor that is punishable by up to one year in the Winnebago County Jail.

Hudgens is scheduled to be sentenced at 10:30am on February 14, 2025, by Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

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

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