



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE

July 2, 2025

State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Ricky L. McGowens (DOB: 11/1/1978)** was convicted of Drug Induced Homicide and Delivery of a Controlled Substance after a week-long jury trial before the Honorable Judge Ronald White.

On November 11, 2024, Rockford Police responded to a local hospital for a drug overdose. Upon arrival, officers learned Amyjo Cochran was found in her room unresponsive. Her heart stopped and hospital staff were able to restart her heart. A few days later, she was removed from life support in anticipation of organ donation and she was pronounced deceased. A white substance was found by her bed which was found to be fentanyl. Cochran had been in the hospital since a car crash on October 14, 2024. Cochran was set to be discharged on November 12, 2024. A subsequent autopsy determined Cochran's cause of death to be a fentanyl overdose. Detectives learned that Cochran had not been receiving fentanyl in the hospital at the time of her overdose. During the investigation the defendant, Ricky McGowens, was developed as a suspect. At trial, prosecutors presented cell phone evidence that proved the victim and McGowens exchanged text messages and phone calls related to the buying of drugs. McGowens was on surveillance videos exiting the 3rd floor elevators, where Cochran's room was, the evening of November 11. In the video, he walked towards Cochran's room, then returned to the elevator in less than 4 minutes. Within 2 hours, Cochran was found unresponsive by Cochran's nurse.

Drug Induced Homicide 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.

Delivery of a Controlled Substance is a Class 2 Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 3-7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by one year of Mandatory Supervised Release.

McGowens is scheduled to be back in court on July 21, 2025 in front of Judge White in Courtroom 316 of the Winnebago County Criminal Justice Center.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Mark Mitacek and Shannon Cervantes are handling the prosecution.



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

CONTACT PERSON:

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney
815-319-4700