



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
November 14, 2024
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Brendan Maher sentenced **Richard L. Wooten (DOB: 3/2/1966)** to 50 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for two counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault and one count of Aggravated Battery. Wooten will also be on Mandatory Supervised Release for the rest of his natural life once he is released from prison. The defendant was found guilty of the offenses after a jury trial in September of 2023.

On June 22, 2022, Rockford City Police officers responded to the 1100 block of 3rd Avenue after receiving a report of an unconscious, and badly beaten female lying on a mattress in the alley. The female was transported to Swedish American Hospital to be treated for multiple facial and head injuries, including a brain bleed. Emergency surgery was needed to remove part of the victim's skull to alleviate swelling. She was then put into a medically induced coma where she remained for several weeks while she recovered. A sexual assault kit was also completed on the victim at the hospital. On June 23, 2022, Detectives developed the defendant, Richard Wooten, as a suspect. During an interview with Wooten, Detectives observed blood on his shirt. Officers collected a DNA sample from Wooten as well as his shirt. The Sexual Assault Kit, Wooten's DNA, and swabs of the blood on Wooten's shirt were sent to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. Results show that the Sexual Assault Kit DNA was Richard Wooten's. The swabs from Wooten's shirt were also positive for blood consistent with that of the female victim.

Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class X Felony that is punishable by 6-30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by a term of mandatory supervised released of three years to natural life. Wooten was sentenced to 40 years for this offense and it must be served at 85%

In this case, the Aggravated Battery charge is a Class 3 Felony that is punishable by an extended sentence of 2-10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Wooten was sentenced to 10 years for this offense and it must be served at 50%. This sentence runs consecutive to the other sentence.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Kirstin Krivanec and Emily Palmer handled the prosecution.

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