



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
July 14, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **Marnell X. Fulton (DOB: 5/25/1993)** was found guilty of First Degree Murder after a bench trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

On December 15, 2021, Rockford Police responded to the area of the 500 block of S. 2nd Street in reference to a shooting victim. Upon arrival, Officers located a victim, later identified as Robert Bingenheimer, laying in the foyer of an apartment in a pool of blood. He suffered from an apparent gunshot wound to his neck and was deceased. During the investigation Detectives learned Bingenheimer owed money to a drug dealer later identified as the defendant, Marnell Fulton. Surveillance video shown during trial shows Fulton walk up to the apartment building where Bingenheimer lived. Witnesses testified that they heard arguing about money near the front of the building, then a gunshot right before the defendant was seen leaving the area.

First Degree Murder is a Class M Felony that is punishable by a sentence of 20-60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by three years of mandatory supervised release. The Court shall add 25 years to natural life to any sentence imposed. The sentence must be served at 100%.

Fulton is scheduled to be back in court on September 17, 2026, before Judge Schafer in Courtroom 317 of the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The Rockford Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Emily Palmer and Nathaniel Huss are handling the prosecution.

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