



J. HANLEY
WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
February 2, 2026
State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer sentenced **Meovonte L. Cooper (DOB: 7/27/2002)** to 26 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Attempt First Degree Murder and Aggravated Battery with a Firearm. Cooper was convicted of the offenses after a jury trial in March. As part of his sentence, the defendant will also be on mandatory supervised release for three years after he is released from prison. The sentence must be served at 85%.

On August 24, 2024, Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies were on patrol in the area of 8600 North Second Street in Machesney Park when they heard multiple rounds of gunshots being fired. Deputies observed the defendant, Meovonte Cooper, driving a vehicle away from the area. During a traffic stop, Deputies observed there was a firearm inside the vehicle, but the magazine, was empty of ammunition. At the same time, Winnebago County 911 received a report of a shooting victim in the 1000 block of Minns Drive. Upon arrival, deputies located an adult male, suffering from a gunshot wound to the back. He was transported to the hospital to be treated. During the follow-up investigation, deputies determined Cooper shot the victim as he was sleeping on the couch. Cooper drove his vehicle on to the lawn, climbed on top of the vehicle's roof and up to the second floor balcony, to shoot the victim through the window. The incident was caught on security camera video.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorneys Emily Palmer and Andrew Marcum handled the prosecution.

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