



J. HANLEY

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE
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State's Attorney J. Hanley

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **James H. Durkee (DOB: 12/11/1964)** was sentenced to 15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections as part of a negotiated guilty plea to one count of Aggravated Arson. In addition, Durkee will be on mandatory supervised release for three years after he is released from prison. The sentenced must be served at 85%.

On October 1, 2025, the Rockford Fire Department responded to a call for a residential structure fire at 1441 Andrews Street. After extinguishing the fire, the Fire Department requested an investigator to determine the origin and cause. Investigators determined that multiple fires had been set in an upstairs bedroom. A short time later, the Fire Department received a phone call from the defendant, James Durkee, who said he wanted to turn himself in for starting the fires at the home on Andrews Street. During subsequent interviews with Rockford Fire Investigators, Durkee admitted he started the fires using trash and the stove because he was upset.

The Rockford Fire Department conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Emily Palmer handled the prosecution.

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