



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**May 15, 2026**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that **John T. Gregory (DOB: 6/2/1986)** was found guilty of First Degree Murder with the firearm enhancement after a four day bench trial before the Honorable Judge Debra Schafer.

On April 8, 2023, Rockford Police Officers responded to 3112 Guilford Road in reference to a welfare check. The caller stated she went to the residence, and found the door open and the house looked ransacked but she was afraid to go in. Upon arrival, Officers made entry into the house and found Antwinette Paschal deceased, laying on the living room floor. Officers also observed items were strewn about. Detectives learned some neighbors had come forward with information during the investigation. Those neighbors testified during trial and said the defendant, John Gregory, was upset with the victim, because he thought she had stolen money from him. Witnesses testified that they had previously heard Gregory arguing with the victim, and at least one of them, had seen him attacking her. An autopsy revealed that Paschal died from a gunshot wound to the chin. A shell casing, recovered from the victim during the autopsy matched a firearm that was found in a residence where Gregory was staying at the time of his arrest. A forensic expert from the Illinois State Police testified that both the victim's and defendant's DNA were found on the gun.

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. Gregory is eligible for an additional 25 years to life in the Department of Corrections for the firearm enhancement.

Gregory is scheduled to appear in court on June, 15, 2026, in front of 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 Jennifer Gadow are handling the prosecution.



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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