



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CARBONDALE MAN CONVICTED OF HOME INVASION**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale resident was convicted of Attempted Robbery following a jury trial.

Christian McLendon, 23, of Carbondale, Illinois, was convicted of Home Invasion, a Class X Felony, following a jury trial which was held on May 18, 2015. On January 25, 2015, the Carbondale Police Department responded to a home invasion. When officers arrived, they located two individuals standing outside the residence. The two individuals identified themselves as the occupants of the apartment and informed the officers that Christian McLendon had just kicked in their front door holding both a knife and a gun. The individuals indicated that the defendant had previously been at the apartment with his girlfriend, and he was told to leave the apartment. They alleged that the defendant refused to leave and had to be forced out of the apartment along with his girlfriend. The two individuals shut the door behind him and went back into their bedroom. Approximately ten minutes later, they heard a loud noise. The two individuals then observed the defendant coming through the front door with a long knife, which they also described as a sword, and a handgun. The defendant then pushed open the bedroom door where the two residents were and began threatening to kill them. The defendant lunged at the two individuals with the knife and also pointed the gun at them. The defendant then retreated back into the main part of the residence and eventually left without causing any physical harm to the individuals. The defendant left the front door damaged and also created a hole in the wall of one of the apartment doors.

A short time later, the defendant was located at his apartment at 1200 E. Grand Avenue. A large knife was located in the apartment, but no gun was found on the scene. The defendant was later questioned and admitted to kicking in the front door and possessing a knife. The defendant denied having a firearm and threatening the two individuals in the apartment. He claimed that he only wanted to retrieve his cellphone from the apartment.

On May 15, 2015, the defendant informed the Court that he did not wish to be present for his jury trial, and the following Monday a jury trial was held without his presence. The defendant is eligible to receive six (6) to thirty (30) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The defendant is not eligible to receive probation.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of this case.