



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MURPHYSBORO WOMAN SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR DELIVERY OF
A LOOK- ALIKE SUBSTANCE AND LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
INVOLVING PERSONAL INJURY**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Murphysboro resident, Jennifer Steffens, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for Delivery of a Look a Like Substance and Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving Personal Injury.

In the Delivery of a Look a Like Substance case, Ms. Steffens was sentenced to two (2) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with one (1) year of mandatory supervised release. In the Leaving the Scene of an Accident case, the defendant was also sentenced to two (2) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, and the two charges will run concurrently together.

On January 9, 2015, at approximately 9:00 a.m., the Murphysboro Police arrested an individual for Driving Under the Influence. After being arrested, it was discovered that the individual was in possession of Suboxone, a controlled substance. The individual told the police that he obtained the pills from the defendant, Jennifer Steffens. The individual agreed to perform a controlled buy from Ms. Steffens later that day.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., a controlled buy was performed with the defendant where she sold the individual five (5) Suboxone strips. The defendant was subsequently taken into custody for distribution of a controlled substance. However, the substance turned out to be a fake. The defendant was subsequently charged with Delivery of a Look-Alike Substance, a Class 3 Felony.

On February 4, 2015, the defendant pled guilty to the charge and was placed on probation. As a condition of that probation, Ms. Steffens was placed into Drug Court. Drug Court gives non-violent drug offenders the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves and potentially have their convictions removed from their record. Unfortunately, Ms. Steffens failed to comply with the requirements of the Drug Court, and her probation was revoked.

On March 29, 2015, Murphysboro Police Officers responded to a traffic accident near the area of Walnut and 22nd Street in Murphysboro. When officers arrived, they located two vehicles

but only one of the drivers was present. The driver of the at-fault vehicle, the defendant, fled the scene shortly after the accident occurred. The other driver suffered three broken ribs from the accident, and had to be transported by ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital in Murphysboro for treatment. Eye witnesses identified the defendant as the driver of the at-fault vehicle, and a warrant was subsequently issued for her arrest.

The defendant was released on a furlough until July 20, 2015. At that time, the defendant will begin her prison sentence. These investigations were conducted by the Murphysboro Police Department. Assistant State's Attorneys Patrick J. Brewster and Mark Hamrock were responsible for the prosecution of these cases.