



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, May 26, 2016

MATTHEW BENSON, AVA, SENTENCED TO THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON BY A FELON & DRIVING WHILE LICENSE IS REVOKED

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that an Ava resident, Matthew Benson, age 42, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections following pleas of guilty on May 26, 2016.

On February 28, 2016, at approximately 1:50 p.m., the Illinois State Police observed an individual driving a vehicle on Illinois Route 13 while the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. The troopers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and identified the driver as the defendant, Matthew Benson. A review by the officer revealed that the defendant had a revoked driver's license, and the defendant was taken into custody.

On March 27, 2016, Jackson County Deputies responded to 28 Bluejay Road in Ava, Illinois, in regard to the theft of two firearms. When the deputies arrived, they met with the owner who informed the deputies that he was missing two firearms from the center console of his vehicle. On April 1, 2016, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department determined that the firearms had been stolen by the owner's son-in-law, the defendant, who had sold them for drugs.

On May 26, 2016, the defendant pled guilty to both the Driving While License is Revoked charge and the Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon charge. The defendant was sentenced in the Driving While License is Revoked case to one (1) year in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by one (1) year of mandatory supervised release. The defendant was also sentenced in the Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon case to three (3) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with one (1) year of mandatory supervised release. These sentences will be served concurrently with each other, but will be served consecutively to a remaining prison sentence the defendant has out of Franklin County.

These investigations were conducted by the Illinois State Police and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Assistant State's Attorneys Patrick Brewster and Abigail Dinn were responsible for the prosecutions of these cases.