



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROBERT J. DENNIS, CARBONDALE, CHARGED WITH CONCEALMENT OF A HOMICIDAL DEATH

Robert J. Dennis, 25, of Carbondale, Illinois, was charged today with one count of Concealment of a Homicidal Death, Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today. The one count Information filed in Jackson County Circuit Court alleges that Dennis knowingly concealed the death of what has tentatively been identified as a female, by moving the victim's body in a trash can into a wooded area for the purpose of preventing or delaying the discovery of her death. The offense occurred on August 29, 2016, in Carbondale. The identity of the deceased person is being withheld until forensic verification can be completed.

An Information is merely a charge and not evidence. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

This offense is a Class three (3) felony and carries a potential sentence of two (2) to five (5) years imprisonment. The victim's burned remains were found in a wooded area off of East Main Street, near Piles Fork Creek, in Carbondale on August 30, 2016. The defendant, who was arrested on October 14, is in custody of the Jackson County Sheriff pending his first appearance which is set for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. A judge set his bond at \$500,000.

The investigation into the incident and the death is ongoing and is being pursued by the Carbondale Police Department and the Illinois State Police. Because of the ongoing nature of the investigation, this office will have no additional comment concerning this case at this time.

Assistant State's Attorney Casey E.A. Bloodworth is handling the prosecution.

A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of

*the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. **Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor.** For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see **Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity.** For any press release involving a case which has not yet been tried, please note that: **a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.***