



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAM W. FENTON, MURPHYSBORO, INDICTED ON SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that William F. Fenton, an Ava, Illinois, police officer, age 47, of Murphysboro, Illinois, was indicted by a Grand Jury in Jackson County of multiple counts of Criminal Sexual Assault and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse.

Fenton is charged with two (2) counts of Criminal Sexual Assault, both Class 1 Felonies; and three (3) counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse, all Class 2 Felonies. The Indictment alleges that during the month of July 2017, he committed acts of sexual penetration and sexual conduct with a juvenile.

An arrest warrant was issued in the amount of \$50,000. Fenton was arrested on December 6, 2017, by the Illinois State Police and posted bond. He is scheduled to make a first appearance before the court on January 3, 2018.

If convicted, the defendant faces up to twenty-two (22) years of imprisonment with a Mandatory Supervised Release period of two years to natural life.

An Indictment 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.

The investigation is being pursued by the Illinois State Police. Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca Blomer and State's Attorney Michael C. Carr are 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.***