



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

## Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

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### **SERLE L. THOMAS, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED TO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS BY A FELON**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today, Serle L. Thomas, age 47, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Unlawful Possession of Weapons by a Felon.

On November 2, 2016, at approximately 6:00 a.m., an officer with the Carbondale Police Department on routine patrol observed two vehicles engaged in what he believed to be some sort of dispute at the intersection of East. Walnut and South Logan Streets, Carbondale, Jackson County, Illinois. After speaking with the female driver of one vehicle, the officer concluded the drivers of the two vehicles were in fact engaged in a domestic dispute. The male driver of the other vehicle, identified as the defendant, Serle Thomas, was found to have a suspended driver's license. The defendant was arrested, and his vehicle towed. A vehicle inventory conducted pursuant to Carbondale's tow policy revealed over 100 grams of cannabis and a loaded .22 caliber Berretta semi-automatic pistol. Defendant did not possess a valid Illinois FOID card or concealed carry permit. Defendant is a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing firearms.

On February 14, 2019, Thomas pled guilty to the charge of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon, a Class 3 Felony. He was sentenced to twenty-four (24) months in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by a one (1) year period of mandatory supervised release. As part of the plea agreement, the cannabis charge was dismissed.

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