



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

Jackson County Courthouse • 1001 Walnut • Third Floor • Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-7200 • FAX (618) 687-7215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

Thursday, March 14, 2019

GARY L. STARKS, CARBONDALE INDICTED FOR RECKLESS HOMICIDE

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Gary L. Starks, age 56, of Carbondale, Illinois, was indicted by a Grand Jury in Jackson County for Reckless Homicide resulting from a traffic incident that occurred near Attucks Park in Carbondale on August 13, 2018.

The Bill of Indictment alleges that on August 13, 2018, the defendant unintentionally, without lawful justification, killed a five-year-old boy by recklessly operating his motor vehicle in such a manner as was likely to cause death or great bodily harm to that child, in that the defendant, in conscious disregard for the particular surroundings and circumstances, drove his vehicle on a road adjacent to Attucks Park, located on North Wall Street in Carbondale, at a speed far in excess of the posted 30 mph speed limit at a time when people and children were present, and that he struck a child who was crossing the roadway.

Reckless Homicide with a Motor Vehicle is a Class 3 felony which carries a potential sentence of from two to five years in prison. It is a probationable offense.

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.

Starks is currently in custody at the Jackson County Jail with bond set at \$100,000. He is scheduled to make a first appearance in court on Friday.

The investigation is being pursued by the Carbondale Police Department. State's Attorney Michael Carr and Assistant State's Attorney Luke Palmer are responsible for 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.***