



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JOSHUA E. STEPHENS, CARBONDALE,
SENTENCED TO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR
AGGRAVATED BATTERY**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Joshua E. Stephens, age 32, of Carbondale, IL was sentenced in Jackson County Circuit Court to the Illinois Department of Corrections following a sentencing hearing on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

On May 30, 2018, Murphysboro police officers were dispatched to a business located on Walnut Street for a report of a battery and theft of a bicycle. Upon arrival, the officers met with a male victim who was bleeding from his nose and had a visible laceration on the inside of his lower lip. The victim reported that as he was leaving the business, he was punched in the face by a person known to him as Joshua Stephens. The attack caused the victim to fall backward into the store. When he got up, both Stephens and the victim's bicycle were gone.

On December 12, 2018, Stephens pled guilty to the charge of Aggravated Battery, a Class 3 Felony, and was placed on probation for a period of 18 months. When he failed to comply with the conditions of his probation, a petition to revoke his probation was filed. On May 15, 2019, Stephens was found to be in violation of his probation and the court set the case for sentencing which was held on August 8, 2019. At the sentencing hearing, evidence was presented that Stephens was also involved in another incident, 2019-CF-175, Burglary and Aggravated Battery, on May 2, 2019, where he broke into a car located in Carbondale and then hit the owner who had interrupted the burglary. After considering all the evidence, the court sentenced Stephens to the Illinois Department of Corrections for a term of eight (8) years. Upon his release, he will have to serve one (1) year of mandatory supervised release. His Burglary and Aggravated Battery Charges on the unrelated case were dismissed by the State given his eight years' sentence.

The investigation of the original case was conducted by the Murphysboro Police Department. The Carbondale Police Department investigated the subsequent auto burglary and aggravated battery case. Assistant State's Attorneys Luke Palmer and Jayson Clark were responsible for the prosecutions.