



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERLE J. BOLAND, AVA, SENTENCED TO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today, Merle J. Boland, age 46, of Ava, Illinois, was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Possession of 15-100 grams of Methamphetamine.

On December 20, 2018, deputies with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to a home invasion in DeSoto, Illinois, where Boland and another individual were reported to have forced entry into a residence and battered and forcibly restrained the occupants. In furtherance of the investigation, deputies were granted a search warrant for Boland's car. During the search, deputies located 21 grams of methamphetamine in the driver's seat.

On August 8, 2019, Defendant pled guilty to Possession of 15-100 grams of Methamphetamine, a Class 1 Felony, and was sentenced 36 months court probation. In addition to other standard probationary conditions, Boland was ordered to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and complete any recommended treatment, submit to drug testing, and not commit any further offenses.

Five months later, a Petition to Revoke Boland's probation was filed alleging, among other things, that Boland had failed to report to probation as directed, had admitted to using methamphetamine, and had failed to complete substance abuse treatment. Boland later admitted

to using methamphetamine and not completing substance abuse treatment, and the matter was set for sentencing.

On August 19, 2020, following a sentencing hearing, Boland was resentenced to five and one half (5.5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by a two (2) year period of mandatory supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Assistant State's Attorney Andrew W. Suthard was responsible for the prosecution of this case.