



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GRAND JURY INDICTS NICHOLAS SHELEY IN KNOX COUNTY**

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Knox County State’s Attorney John T. Pepmeyer today announced a Knox County Grand Jury has indicted Nicholas Troy Sheley for the June 28, 2008 murder of Ronald Randall in Galesburg, Ill.

The indictment consists of 10 counts of first-degree murder, two counts of aggravated kidnapping (Class X, 6-30 years), two counts of aggravated vehicular hijacking (Class X, 6-30 years), one count of armed robbery (Class X, 6-30 years), one count of robbery (Class 1, 4-15 years) and one count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle (Class 2, 3-7 years).

The 10 counts of first degree murder include three counts that allege the victim was more than 60 years of age and his death resulted from exceptionally brutal or heinous behavior indicative of wanton cruelty. The State’s Attorney has 120 days after arraignment to file a Notice of Intent to Seek or Decline the Death Penalty, according to Supreme Court Rule 416. Today’s indictment will supercede the charges previously filed against Sheley on July 1, 2008, and relating to these crimes.

Sheley is currently being held in Knox County Jail and also has been charged in Whiteside County with five counts of first-degree murder for the death of Russell Reed, 93 of Sterling, Ill. He remains under investigation for the murders of four people in Rock Falls. He also is charged in Missouri’s Jefferson County on charges of murder and armed criminal action in the Festus, Mo. killings of Jill and Tom Estes of Sherwood, Ark.

The Knox County State’s Attorney and Whiteside County State’s Attorney both requested the assistance of the Attorney General Madigan’s office in the prosecution of Sheley’s cases.

The public is reminded that these are merely charges and that the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.