



September 18, 2008

## **GRAND JURY INDICTS NICHOLAS SHELEY IN WHITESIDE COUNTY MURDERS**

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Whiteside County State's Attorney Gary Spencer today announced a Whiteside County Grand Jury has indicted Nicholas Troy Sheley for four murders in Rock Falls, Ill., on June 28, 2008.

The indictment consists of 15 counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Kilynna L. Blake, 20, Dayan K. Blake, 2, Brock A. Branson, 29, and Kenneth R. Ulve, 25. Three of the 15 counts allege that one of the victims was younger than 12 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.

Sheley is currently being held in Knox County Jail. A Knox County Grand Jury recently indicted him for the murder of Ronald Randall of Galesburg, Ill. He also has been indicted in Whiteside County on first-degree murder charges for the death of Russell Reed, 93 of Sterling, Ill., and for the home invasion of a 90-year-old Sterling, Ill., woman. He is also charged in Missouri's Jefferson County on counts of first-degree 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 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 until proven guilty.

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