



August 11, 2014

STATEMENT FROM PROSECUTION ON SHELEY SENTENCING

Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Whiteside County State's Attorney Trish Joyce issued statements today following Rock Island County Judge Jeffrey O'Connor's sentencing of Nicholas T. Sheley to four sentences of natural life in prison for killing four people in Rock Falls in June 2008. The sentencing concludes criminal prosecution of Sheley in Illinois for his seven-day crime spree that left six people dead.

Sheley was convicted by a Whiteside County jury in May of the murders of 29-year-old Brock Branson; 20-year-old Kilynna Blake; her son, 2-year-old Dayan; and 25-year-old Kenneth Ulve in Rock Falls, Ill. Sheley was found guilty on four counts of first-degree murder.

Madigan's office previously secured convictions against Sheley in the slayings of Ronald Randall, 65, of Galesburg, and Russell Reed, 93, of Sterling. He is currently serving two life sentences for those murders. Sheley is also accused of two murders in Missouri following his crimes in Illinois.

In response to today's sentencing, Attorney General Madigan made the following statement:

"Life in prison is the only appropriate sentence under Illinois law for these heinous crimes. Today's sentencing ensures that Nicholas Sheley will continue to pay for his actions for the remainder of his life. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the all the victims of this awful tragedy."

Whiteside County State's Attorney Joyce added:

"It is fitting that a lifelong criminal has received lifelong sentences of imprisonment for his horrific acts. My hope is that the families of the victims find some sense of peace and their suffering lessens with time."

State's Attorney Joyce requested the assistance of Attorney General Madigan's office in prosecuting Sheley. Working with State's Attorney Joyce, Assistant Attorneys General Bill Elward and Steven Nate handled the case for Madigan's Criminal Enforcement Division.

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