

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **AURORA MAN GETS 60 YEARS FOR KILLING GIRLFRIEND IN 2014 VICTIM SHOT THREE TIMES IN DOMESTIC DISPUTE**

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The Kane County State's Attorney's Office has secured a sentence that will keep a violent domestic abuser in prison for the rest of his life for fatally shooting his girlfriend near his home in 2014.

Circuit Judge John A. Barsanti today sentenced 49-year-old **Christopher M. Whetstone** to a 60 years' imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

A Kane County jury on March 27, 2017, convicted Whetstone of first-degree murder in the Jan. 13, 2014, shooting death of 22-year-old Rachel Taylor of Aurora. In addition, the jury found that Whetstone personally fired the gun that led to Taylor's death.

Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Salvatore LoPiccolo and Alexander Bederka presented evidence during the 11-day trial that the evening of Jan. 13, 2014, Taylor had driven to Whetstone's home to let him see the two children they had together. As they were outside in the 500 block of Charles Street, they began to argue over a cell phone. At about 8:25 p.m., Whetstone shot Taylor in the chest, and Taylor exited the vehicle yelling, "He shot me, he shot me!" Taylor ran away from Whetstone, and Whetstone followed and shot her twice more in the abdomen.

As Taylor lie on the driveway, Whetstone immediately fled on foot. He was arrested by Aurora police about 10 minutes later a few blocks from the scene. Whetstone said, "You got me, you got me," and then asked for a cigarette, saying it was the last one he would smoke for a while.

Taylor was taken to Presence Mercy Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead about an hour later.

The sentence is 35 years for the murder plus an additional mandatory 25 years because Whetstone personally fired the gun that killed Rachel Taylor. Whetstone had faced a minimum sentence of 45 years' imprisonment.

According to Illinois law, Whetstone must serve the full sentence. He receives credit for 1,355 days served in the Kane County jail since his arrest.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said:

"Instead of giving in to Rachel Taylor's wishes to end their relationship, Mr. Whetstone violently ended her life, shooting her while they were in her vehicle, and then chasing her down and shooting her two more times. Not to be overlooked in this horrific tragedy is the fact that, because of his inability to control his anger, their two children will grow up without their parents. I hope Rachel's family will feel that justice has been served in this case.

"Over the last 2 decades Mr. Whetstone has been convicted 6 times for domestic violence and has a total of 9 felony convictions. In addition, he has been charged seemingly countless times for driving on a revoked license. His lawless ways are over."

**Christopher M. Whetstone:** Age 49 (d.o.b. 3-18-1968), of the 500 block of Charles Street, Aurora