



County of Jo Daviess

John D. Hay, State's Attorney **Adam J. North, Assistant State's Attorney**

PRESS RELEASE

Jo Daviess County State's Attorney, John D. Hay, would like to inform the public of the following information. A grand jury in Jo Daviess County, Illinois, returned a Bill of Indictment on September 9, 2019, charging Joseph L. Wright (DOB: 12/24/1988) with five counts of First Degree Murder, which are special class felonies, one count of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, a class 1 felony, two counts of Armed Violence, class X felonies, and two counts of Aggravated Battery, which are class 3 felonies. A warrant for the arrest of Mr. Wright was issued with the Bill of Indictment setting bond at \$1,000,000(10%).

These charges stem from an incident that took place in East Dubuque, Illinois on April 21, 2019. The First Degree Murder charges allege Mr. Wright shot Jennifer Miller (age 44) with a firearm, thereby causing the death of Jennifer Miller.

This Bill of Indictment was sealed by the court when it was returned, requiring that the Bill of Indictment be kept secret until Mr. Wright was taken into custody or given bail. However, Mr. Wright has not been taken into custody or been given bail as of the time of this press release.

The State's motion to unseal the Bill of Indictment was granted by the court today so the State's Attorney's Office could inform the public of these charges and to request the public to provide information about the current whereabouts or location of Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright is approximately 6'1," his last known weight was 205 pounds, his hair was black and he has brown eyes. Mr. Wright also has the word "Passion" tattooed on his right jaw line as well as the word "Prince" and a crown tattooed above his right and left eyes.

The State's Attorney Office is requesting the public to contact the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office at 815-777-2141 if you have any information about the current whereabouts or location of Mr. Wright. The State's Attorney's Office also advises the public to not approach or follow Mr. Wright if you observe him as he may be armed and should be considered dangerous.

A copy of the Bill of Indictment and seven photographs of Mr. Wright have been included with this press release.

State's Attorney Hay would like to remind the public the criminal charges filed against Mr. Wright are merely accusations and allegations, and are not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.