

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AURORA MAN GUILTY OF CHILD ABDUCTION ATTEMPT**

May 27, 2011

An Aurora man has been convicted of trying to lure a child from a grocery store into his vehicle the day after Christmas 2009.

Stephen P. Sweigart, 62 (d.o.b. 9-21-1948) of the 900 block of Lenwood Court, Aurora, was convicted today by Associate Judge Edward C. Schreiber, of one count of child abduction, a Class 4 felony.

Sweigart waived his right to a jury trial.

At about 9 p.m. Dec. 26, 2009, the victim, who was 8 years old at the time, his older sister and his mother were at a grocery store in the 1900 block of West Galena Boulevard, Aurora. The victim was sitting alone on a bench near the exit, not far from where his mother and sister were going through the check-out line. Sweigart approached the victim and attempted to lure the victim to his vehicle, telling the victim he had toys at his house that the victim would enjoy playing with. The mother saw Sweigart talking to her son and asked the sister to investigate. As she approached, Sweigart walked away.

A witness followed Sweigart's vehicle and called police. When police responded they found Sweigart's vehicle parked in his driveway. As the officer approached, he smelled burnt marijuana coming from the vehicle. As the officer searched the vehicle – with Sweigart's permission – he found two handguns, one of which was a loaded .357 Magnum, more than 150 rounds ammunition, a large machete, drug paraphernalia, adult-oriented toys, lingerie and children's toys.

On Feb. 24, 2011, Sweigart pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and one count of unlawful possession of cannabis, each a Class 4 felony, charges that were related to this case. Sentencing on those charges was delayed pending the outcome of this trial.

Judge Schreiber set Sweigart's next court appearance for 1:30 p.m. June 29, 2011, for sentencing. Sweigart faces a sentence of between one and three years in the

Illinois Department of Corrections. With the conviction, Sweigart must register with the Illinois Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry. In addition, if Judge Schreiber determines that that this crime was sexually motivated, Sweigart must register as a convicted sex offender in accordance with the Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act.

Sweigart had been free on \$5,000 bond. Bond was revoked upon conviction and Sweigart was taken into custody to be held at the Kane County jail.

The case was prosecuted by Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Jonathan McKay and Megan Matuska.