



## SAUK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### SERIAL ARSONIST SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS PRISON FOR LAKE DELTON HOME FIRE

BARABOO, WI – Sauk County District Attorney Michael X. Albrecht announced the sentencing of **Christopher J. Steinmetz, 41, of Reedsburg**, to a total prison sentence of 45 years, consisting of **30 years of initial confinement** followed by **15 years of extended supervision**, for the targeted arson of a Lake Delton home and the reckless endangerment of the family within. The sentencing occurred on September 8, 2025, and was handed down by Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Wendy J.N. Klicko in Sauk County case number 23CF418.

The convictions stem from an incident where Steinmetz deliberately set fire to the residence of a family related to his former girlfriend while two adults and three children were inside. The fire consumed the home in minutes, forcing the family to escape from a second-story window, traverse the garage roof, and jump down to safety. The home was a total loss and the fire resulted in the death of the family dog. The jury found Steinmetz guilty of Arson, five Counts of First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, and Felony Criminal Damage to Property. The trial presented extensive evidence that Steinmetz was a serial arsonist, including proof of multiple other fires he set at the home of other members of the ex-girlfriend's family and one at his own mother's home.

“This sentence is a powerful affirmation that our local justice system takes the protection of our community, especially from repeat, premeditated offenders who show a callous disregard for human life, with the utmost seriousness,” said District Attorney Michael X. Albrecht. “Mr. Steinmetz’s senseless campaign of terror against this family, which included endangering them in their own home and resulting in the tragic death of their dog, is now over. This 30-year sentence ensures the greater Sauk County community is protected from this significant danger for decades.”

The April trial was prosecuted by Sauk County District Attorney Michael X. Albrecht and Chief Assistant District Attorney Rick C. Spoentgen. Chief ADA Spoentgen litigated and argued sentencing on behalf of the State of Wisconsin. The prosecution team recognized the essential investigative teamwork and thanked the following agencies for their critical partnership in obtaining these convictions: the Sauk County Sheriff's Office, Lake Delton Police Department, Wisconsin Dells Police Department, Reedsburg Police Department, and Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

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