

**Office of the
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Kendall County, Illinois**



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PRESS RELEASE

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15 Year Sentence for Residential Arson

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Christopher A. Gongora (dob: 10/03/1990, 714 Richmond Drive) of Oswego, Illinois was sentenced to 15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Robert Pilmer for Residential Arson after pleading guilty earlier this year. Gongora had remained in custody since his arrest in June of 2020.

Charges resulted from an investigation back in June of 2020, when police and fire departments were notified that a house in the 700 block of Richmond Drive in Oswego was on fire and residents were able to make it out without injury. When the Oswego Police Department responded, Gongora was seen walking away from the house without a shirt and shoes. After a brief conversation with law enforcement, Gongora admitted to starting the house on fire by lighting his mattress on fire with hand sanitizer. Officers on scene were able to find evidence of Gongora starting the fire then barricading his door with a dresser which would prevent fire fighters from getting to the fire. After lighting the fire, Gongora escaped through a window. Gongora later admitted to starting the fire after ingesting methamphetamine. Gongora's mother was inside the house when the fire started.

Weis stated that Gongora has a history of arson offenses including committing the same type of offense in a neighboring county in 2016. According to reports, drug use was also a factor in that case.

Weis noted that these offenses put lives in danger. Here, Gongora put his mother, himself, and emergency responders in harm's way again based on his criminal actions. Taking into consideration Gongora being a recent repeat offender, the ramifications need to be significant to protect the public from future criminal activity. Gongora will be required to serve 2 years of mandatory supervised release after he serves his fifteen-year prison sentence. The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Frank Gorup. Gongora was represented by Attorney Victoria Chuffo.