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## PRESS RELEASE

**Edwardsville**—Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons announced charges today against Mary C. Little, an Alton resident who is employed as a probation officer for Madison County Probation and Court Services.

Little (d.o.b. 12/10/59) was charged with one count of Obstruction of Justice and one count of Aiding a Fugitive (both Class 4 Felonies) for her role in covering up evidence of an Aggravated Battery from 2011. Brothers Stephen J. Finn (d.o.b. 12/9/75) and Robert J. Finn (d.o.b. 4/18/74) were charged on December 27, 2011 with one count of Aggravated Battery (Class 3 Felony) and one count of Unlawful Restraint (Class 4 Felony) in connection with a battery of a male victim in Alton on December 23, 2011. The brothers had met the victim earlier that evening when an argument occurred that resulted in the beating of the victim. The victim, who suffered a broken orbital socket, was bound with duct tape before escaping from the defendants. Both Stephen Finn and Robert Finn are in custody at the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville where they are being held on \$100,000 bonds. They are scheduled for a preliminary hearing on January 13, 2012.

During the course of the investigation by the Alton Police Department, it was discovered that Little, who was a neighbor and long-time acquaintance of the Finn brothers, had washed clothing worn by Robert Finn during the battery. Additionally, she concealed the presence of Robert Finn at her home in an effort to prevent his arrest. Little's bond is set at \$50,000; she is not in custody at this time.

State's Attorney Gibbons stated he was outraged at Little's actions. "While this action did not occur during her official duties, our county employees must act in ways that maintain the public confidence and integrity of the position. The public has a right to expect that its employees will be held to higher standards. I will do everything in my power to ensure that they are," Gibbons said.

Gibbons noted that because of Little's work as a probation officer, her case will be referred to the Illinois State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office for handling of the case. Gibbons also spoke with the head of Probation and Court Services, Judy Dallas, who will be taking immediate action regarding Little's employment status. This information will be released by the Probation Department once it is finalized.

Maximum penalty for a Class 3 Felony is 2-5 years in prison; the maximum for a Class 4 is 1-3 years in prison. These charges, as well as the statements made herein, are based upon probable cause. The defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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