



**OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

**STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TAKES FIRST STEPS
TOWARD A 'NO REFUSAL' DUI PROGRAM IN KANKAKEE COUNTY**

KANKAKEE, IL – After months of planning with area law enforcement, State's Attorney Jim Rowe is announcing the rollout of a *No Refusal* DUI program in Kankakee County. The program will begin on "Blackout Wednesday", the eve of Thanksgiving and one of the most deadly nights for drivers. Participating police departments for this trial-run include Bradley, Bourbonnais, Manteno and the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department.

Under the *No Refusal* initiative, law enforcement will obtain a warrant for a blood draw for any DUI suspect who refuses breath tests to determine blood-alcohol levels. A suspect who resists medical staff's efforts to draw blood could face a felony charge for obstructing justice. Officers participating in this program have been trained by Assistant State's Attorney Val Gunderson and IL Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Jennifer Cifaldi.

The policy is aided by a new electronic warrant system (E-Warrant) that will allow police to quickly obtain warrants. Officers can now create search warrants online, send the warrant for review to a judge, interact with the judge through video conferencing and obtain a warrant through the judge's electronic signature. Marlow Jones, Chief of the Criminal Bureau in the State's Attorney's Office, led the effort to bring the E-Warrant system to Kankakee County. The first test of this E-Warrant system will coincide with the *No Refusal* program, with plans to eventually expand the E-Warrant system beyond DUI search warrants.

"If successful, this program will encourage people to drive sober", said State's Attorney Jim Rowe. "It will also, if someone is stopped, encourage them to comply with the law. Ideally, the goal here is to get to a point where we no longer need a *No Refusal* program because drivers are not operating on our roads while under the influence. Until we get to that point, we are going to do everything we can to bring best practices to our county and keep drunk drivers off of our streets."

This *No Refusal* program will initially take place over the Thanksgiving holiday (11/22/18-11/25/18) to provide an opportunity for all involved to identify and resolve any concerns before we implement the program countywide on a 24/7 basis in early-2019. "My hope is to have all departments on board and trained with *No Refusal* and electronic warrants by early-2019. This will create stronger cases for prosecution and reduce the need for investigating officers to appear in court, keeping them available for patrol staffing instead of attending court dates", said Rowe.

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