

Office of the

State's Attorney

601 N. MAIN STREET • SUITE 302 • BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008-2609 (815) 544-0868

Michelle J. Courier
Boone County State's Attorney

August 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michelle Courier, (815)547-8199

ROAD RAGE ENDS WITH A 7 YEAR SENTENCE FOR BELVIDERE MAN

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier announced that a Belvidere man will spend 7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Aggravated Battery to another driver as a result of road rage.

On July 31, 2009, Samuel Fornelli, 26, of Belvidere was sentenced to 7 years in prison for the attack of another driver following a road rage incident on Route 20 near Shattuck Road. On May 11, 2008, Mother's Day, Fornelli was traveling east on Route 20, passed the victim's car to get in front of his vehicle, and then slammed on his brakes, cutting off the victim driver. Both drivers pulled over. Fornelli then jumped out of his vehicle, ripped off his shirt, and started to beat the victim while yelling profanities. During the altercation, Fornelli punched, kicked, and even bit the victim driver. Fornelli threatened to throw the victim into oncoming traffic. The victim driver was able to wrestle away from Fornelli, and a passerby contacted the police. The victim's wife and nine-year-old son witnessed the attack.