

SUSPECT IN 2 SLAYINGS IS GUILTY IN THIRD

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, April 4, 1998

Author: TIM DORAN Free Press Staff Writer

Donald Kline, charged with killing his girlfriend 48 hours after being released from a mental hospital, was found **guilty** Friday of second-degree murder.

But the system that released him from the institution -- where he had been sent after being found not **guilty** by reason of insanity **in** two other deaths -- **is** just as **guilty**, said Mary and Vincent Baker, parents of the victim, Barbara Baker, 31.

Kline, 42, could face up to life **in** prison when he **is** sentenced April 17 before Circuit Judge Warfield Moore Jr.

Kline's lawyer, Donald Cook, said he would appeal.

Kline was sent to the state mental health system after the 1985 strangling of James Sherwood, 16, and the stabbing death of Alfred Goldfaden.

Goldfaden was stabbed 41 times **in** what witnesses described as a rampage that included the burning of an apartment building on Fort Street **in** Detroit. Sherwood was found inside the burning building, where Kline lived. Goldfaden was killed **in** his office next door.

Wayne County Probate Judge Cathie Maher ordered Kline's release **in** August 1996. Dr. M.A. Zamora, a state psychiatrist, had declared Kline could be a danger to himself and others if he didn't take his medication or follow his after-care routine. But Kline's attorney **in** 1996, Debra Ford, said Zamora testified at the hearing on Kline's release that he had been mentally stable for five years and posed no danger.

Two days after his release, Barbara Baker, who had met Kline **in** Northville Psychiatric Hospital, where she was recovering from a cocaine problem, was found strangled outside her home. Kline had moved **in** with her.

Kline, found competent to stand trial, maintained his innocence.

Tim Doran can be reached at 1-313-223-4543.

Caption: Photo

Two days after Donald Kline's release from a mental facility **in** 1996, his girlfriend was found strangled. Friday, a jury said he did it. He faces up to life **in** prison.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 11A

Index Terms: DONALD KLINE ; COURT ; HOMICIDE

Record Number: 9804040093

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