

## **BABY ISAIAH'S KILLER GETS LIFE TERM, BLAMES OTHERS - CLERK, COPS DIDN'T HELP HIM AID CHILD, HE SAYS**

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Still claiming he is innocent, convicted baby killer **Harold Reed** was sentenced to life in prison without parole on Monday.

**Reed**, 49, was convicted of abusing and killing 3-month-old Isaiah Lewis.

The baby's mother, Shaniqua Betty, handed Isaiah to a stranger at a bus stop at Woodward and State Fair at 1 a.m. Aug. 3 after an altercation with her boyfriend. Betty went to the boyfriend's home to retrieve her purse and was shocked when she returned to the bus stop and could find neither the man nor her son.

Betty didn't know the stranger's name. He was identified later when police released a security videotape from a nearby service station showing a heavy-set man holding the baby.

The stranger turned out to be **Reed**, a convicted pedophile. He was arrested and led police to the baby's body, which was lying under a filthy mattress in an abandoned home within a quarter-mile of the bus stop.

On Feb. 25, a jury convicted **Reed** of felony murder, second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse. He already knew the punishment for felony murder was a mandatory life sentence and showed little emotion aside from a rambling speech in which he said he had tried to get help for baby Isaiah.

"I'm really sorry about the loss, but I tried everything I could during that time of night to get the child help," **Reed** told visiting Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Overbrook.

**Reed** said he offered to give a service station clerk \$1 to call 911, but the clerk refused. He also said he tried to wave down a passing police car and another car without success.

Earlier, **Reed** confessed to police that he had hit the baby to stop him from crying. Isaiah sustained three skull fractures and two jaw fractures. A medical examiner testified that Isaiah died instantly from the blows to the head.

Overbrook sentenced **Reed** to 8-15 years for child abuse. He also vacated the conviction for second-degree murder -- under which parole is allowed -- in favor of felony murder, which has no possibility of parole.

**Reed**'s attorney, W. Frederick Moore, said his client would appeal.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Michael Wagner said it was "hard to imagine anything more horrific than this particular crime."

**Reed** , Wagner said, held a "3-month-old child in his hands and could feel the crushing of bones. . . . He could experience the life leaving his body."

Betty pleaded no contest to fourth-degree child abuse March 8 and was placed on probation. She is getting counseling and help with her education.

If she successfully completes the probation, Wayne County Circuit Judge Sean Cox is expected to dismiss the charge, leaving her with no criminal record.

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Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press file photo

**HaroldReed** , shown before a jury convicted him in February, told police he hit Isaiah Lewis to stop him from crying.

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Correction: \* In a Tuesday article about the sentencing of convicted baby killer Harold Reed of Detroit, the judge's name was incorrect. It was visiting Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas W. Brookover.

Index Terms: HAROLD REED; SENTENCING ; HOMICIDE ; CHILD ; ISIAH LEWIS

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