

BEATING THAT KILLED BABY WASN'T FIRST - SCARS, BRUISES, BURN FOUND ON BODY MOM'S BOYFRIEND WILL BE TRIED

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The fatal beating **Roderick Bailey** allegedly gave a 23-month-old boy wasn't the first time he struck the child, police said Friday.

"I've whopped him before," Bailey told Detroit police homicide investigators.

When questioned further by investigator Barbara Simon, Bailey confessed to repeatedly striking Daniel Woodward, who was in his care, because Daniel wet himself and his mother was late in returning from work. Daniel died from bleeding on his brain and contusions to his liver Oct. 16 at Children's Hospital in Detroit.

"I'm sorry for what I've done to Daniel," he told Simon. "I need help."

Bailey, 32, of Detroit is charged with first-degree murder. After a preliminary examination Friday, Judge Jeanette O'Banner-Owens of 36th District Court found probable cause to send his case to trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Bailey did not testify during the examination. But the hearing brought tearful testimony from Daniel's mother, Cherise Woodward, who had been dating Bailey since August. Woodward, 22, testified that she had left her son in Bailey's care several times and trusted that he wouldn't harm Daniel.

Woodward explained that a burn found on Daniel's chest occurred earlier when he spilled hot chocolate on himself, also while Bailey was baby-sitting him.

She said she did not take Daniel to the hospital for the burn because the state Family Independence Agency already had taken a daughter from her.

"I did not want my son to get taken from me," she said.

A medical examiner testified that Daniel had numerous scars and bruises on his legs, back, chest and arms and that the child had been badly abused.

Woodward said the scars came from chicken pox.

"My baby's never been abused," she said.

Either way, O'Banner-Owens concluded the child had been beaten before, citing Bailey's statements to investigators and the medical examiner's testimony.

"It's a sad epitaph for a child, 23 months old," she said.

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Caption: Photo

"I'm sorry . . . I need help," said **Roderick Bailey** , who is charged with murder.

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