

CRUCIAL OVERSIGHT CITED IN QUINTUPLE-MURDER CASE

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A calculating **Reco Jones** meticulously cleaned up the murder scene after he butchered four small children and a woman, a prosecutor said Wednesday as the quintuple-murder case began.

But the 23-year-old slaying suspect "made one mistake," prosecutor Kevin Simowski told the jury.

He left behind a speck of blood that may have dripped down his arm and landed on the counter as he washed his hands after the murders, Simowski said in opening statements.

It apparently contained the blood of 24-year-old Yolanda Bellamy, her children Nathan Burns Jr., 5, and Nathan Burns III, 3, and her 3-year-old niece Shafontah and 5-year-old nephew Delvontay Bellamy.

Simowski said the droplet also was consistent with the blood of **Reco Jones**, Yolanda Bellamy's ex-boyfriend. Jones' defense attorney John McWilliams pinned the killings on one of Jones' girlfriends, a prosecution witness who allegedly helped destroy evidence.

"The perpetrator is not the defendant," McWilliams told the jury. Instead, it was a jealous woman who mistakenly thought the children belonged to Yolanda Bellamy and Jones, he said.

"This man is a very manipulative person and a very clever person and ultimately a very evil person," said Simowski, who described the carnage after the Aug. 13 murders at the house on Rutherford in Detroit:

Yolanda Bellamy and the toddlers were found sprawled in pools of blood. Yolanda Bellamy's face had been beaten. Evidence showed that Nathan Burns Jr. ran around the house after being stabbed 19 times before collapsing. Bellamy clutched her youngest boy as he was stabbed.

Shafontah had been tortured, a Wayne County medical examiner testified. Besides the 21 slashing wounds, her body had 30 puncture wounds that prolonged her death, said Laning Davidson, the examiner.

It took from 15 minutes to an hour for all the children to die, he said.

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Caption: Photo

Reco Jones

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