

## **Dead baby's mom faces trial - Boyfriend's testimony claims fight forced her to flee with Isiah Lewis**

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DETROIT -- Ivan Brown Jr. lifted his right arm high and punched the air, describing how he swung at Shaniqua Betty during her preliminary hearing Monday in 36th District Court.

He recounted the argument that led to Betty, whom he calls "baby doll," fleeing from the house Aug. 3 with their baby before she handed the 3-month-old infant to the stranger who killed him.

Despite testimony from two witnesses describing Betty's hysteria that night, Judge Alex Allen bound her over for trial on second-degree child abuse charges.

Betty, 20, of Pontiac, wearing black and white gym shoes, black slacks and a beige hooded cardigan, stared straight ahead during the judge's remarks.

Her case gained national attention when she handed her baby over to a stranger, **Harold Reed**, 48, of Detroit at a bus stop near the Michigan State Fair about midnight Aug. 3.

**Reed**, who confessed to killing the baby, Isiah Lewis, is charged with first-degree murder. Betty, who now is pregnant with her second child, was charged Aug. 23 with the child abuse by Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan.

"I am surprised and somewhat disappointed," said Betty's attorney, Steven Fishman. "I thought the testimony clearly showed that she committed no crime, and that this was an admittedly tragic situation, but entirely lacking in criminal intent."

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office was pleased with the judge's decision.

"This is such a tragic situation," said Ruth Carter, a spokeswoman for the Prosecutor's Office. "Our position has not been to bury her in jail. I think it would be best to explore getting her some counseling."

What occurred on the evening of Aug. 3 was revealed through testimony by Brown and a good Samaritan who gave Betty a ride that night.

Brown, who said he and Shaniqua argued frequently and that she often walked out with their baby, testified he and Shaniqua argued over the amount of medication she was dispensing to their child for thrush. He thought she was giving the baby too much medicine.

Betty balked at his interference saying, "This is my baby and I know how to take care of him. I'm with him all day, every day," Brown testified.

The argument escalated and continued for about 30 minutes before she grabbed the baby she was then bathing, wrapped him in a towel and tried to run before Brown took a swing at her.

"I must say, I was trying to hit her," he admitted.

That is when she darted barefoot from the house to the bus shelter.

After leaving her baby with **Harold Reed**, she returned to Brown's house for her shoes and purse. The argument continued and she ran from the house again, screaming for help.

Jermain R. Henry, 21, offered her a ride. But when they returned to the bus stop, Betty did not see the stranger with her baby and jumped out of the car before it came to a complete stop, Henry said.

"She was hysterical," he added.

Betty then ran to the bus shelter at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, where a crowd began to gather, and she was handcuffed and placed in a squad car after officers could not calm her down. Eight days later, **Harold Reed** led police to the baby's body in an abandoned house.

Betty is free on a \$10,000 personal bond, pending arraignment in Wayne Circuit Court.

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