

FAMILY WAITS AND WATCHES COURT CASE OF SON'S SLAYING

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He bought sod for his son's grave, and he patiently fertilizes and clips the grass so it becomes a soft-napped green carpet, standing out among other sites at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

And just as diligently, Carl Dobrzynski sits in court, carefully monitoring the murder case against the teenager accused of gunning down his oldest son, Raymond, during last fall's World Series victory celebration.

"I would come down here a thousand times if I had to, because I want to see justice done," Dobrzynski said Wednesday while waiting for what was the last Juvenile Court hearing for 16-year-old **William Bryant**. "We are not disinterested parties." BRYANT, WHO HAD no police record before the Oct. 14 slaying of Raymond Dobrzynski outside the Lafayette Coney Island restaurant downtown, was charged in Recorder's Court on Friday with first-degree murder, armed robbery and possession of a firearm during a felony.

Because he is being tried as an adult, Bryant faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. If his case had not been waived by Wayne County juvenile court on Thursday, he could only have been held in facilities run by the state Department of Social Services until he reached age 19.

Visiting Judge Paul Mahinske, a retired Livingston County Circuit judge, ruled that Bryant's case met the five criteria needed for juvenile court to waive jurisdiction. A key criterion is whether DSS had the proper facilities and programs to rehabilitate the youth.

MAHINSKE SAID the DSS was so far over capacity officials "couldn't guarantee he would go to Green Oaks, the boys training school" for rehabilitation. "They also couldn't guarantee he wouldn't be on the streets tomorrow awaiting probation or placement."

Raymond Dobrzynski, 27, was found mortally wounded with a gunshot to his back in the front seat of his car, double-parked on Lafayette outside the Lafayette Coney Island restaurant downtown. Although hundreds of people were in the area celebrating the Tigers' World Series victory, police could find no witnesses.

After Dobrzynski's parents offered a \$2,000 reward in the case, an anonymous phone caller told police the killer was Bryant and that he was already in the Wayne County Youth home. Bryant, 16, was awaiting trial then in the robbery of a pizza delivery man that occurred after the Dobrzynski slaying.

According to police reports, Bryant was among five youths who came downtown Oct. 14. Bryant allegedly showed the gun, a 9mm pistol, to the others. After three boys left for home, Bryant and another youth stayed behind. The robbery and shooting of Dobrzynski occurred about four hours after the ball game had ended.

An athlete in high school, Dobrzynski later managed a Little League team in Royal Oak. At the ceremony opening Royal Oak's Little League season this year, the league invited Ray's parents, Carl and Mira, to watch the placement of a plaque with Ray's name on it on a newly planted tree. "It makes you feel good, knowing people remember him like that," Carl said.

THE DOBRZYNSKIS watched each juvenile court proceeding in Bryant's case and although the many delays have been frustrating, Carl said, "I still have faith in the system."

Judge Mahinske said the case had been delayed several times by the illness of defense attorney W. Otis Culpepper, and problems scheduling witnesses such as Dr. Rosalind Griffin, a psychiatrist hired by the defense to examine Bryant.

Paul Curtis, who filled in for the ailing Culpepper at Bryant's arraignment Friday, said both Griffin and court psychologist Tom Regan testified that the youth would have a better chance of "personality enhancement" in the juvenile system.

"I think it was the attention generated by the World Series that some people felt compelled to put him away," Curtis said. "How many other youths charged with murder have stayed in the juvenile system? Quite a few."

MAHINSKE said he was dismayed by the delays and had suggested that perhaps the testimony from the defense psychiatrist was not necessary. But, "the prosecuting attorney said he didn't want to create any loopholes for this case to jump through," he said.

Mira Dobrzynski is on a bowling team with a Sterling Heights woman whose 18-year-old daughter was killed in April near Indian River.

Laurice Tanner said she did not desire a lot of publicity about her daughter's case for fear of jeopardizing the police investigation. The murders of Linda Tanner, who was five months pregnant, and her boyfriend Scott Flowers, 21, remain unsolved. The two were found buried near Flowers' cottage near Mullet Lake.

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