

4 TEENS TO STAND TRIAL FOR RAPE JUDGE SAYS OTHERS MUST DECIDE TRUTH OF GIRL'S STORY

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Despite some apparent contradictions in the testimony of a girl who said she was raped at Hutchins Middle School in Detroit on May 1, a judge on Monday ordered four teenagers to stand trial on charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Wayne Circuit Judge Frances Pitts said the girl's credibility would have to be determined by the judge or jury hearing the case against the four teens: **Audi Dawson** and Dominique Brown, both 15 and charged as adults, and a 14-year-old boy and 13-year-old girl who may be sentenced as adults if convicted. The younger teens' names are being withheld because of their juvenile status.

The girl testified that she was lured to a vacant area on the fourth floor of Hutchins, at 8820 Woodrow Wilson, by the 14-year-old boy and 13-year-old girl who tricked her into thinking a teacher wanted to see her.

The girl, who recently turned 13, said **Dawson** forced her to sit in a chair in a vacant classroom and told her she couldn't leave. She said Brown clamped her hand on her mouth.

Then, she said, she was forced into an attic-like area, carried across a catwalk by **Dawson** and then raped by him while the other three teens held her.

On May 1, the girl told a school counselor and a police officer that **Dawson** had unzipped her pants and pulled them down. On Monday, she testified that it was Brown and the 13-year-old girl who did that.

"I was so hurt, I couldn't remember what happened" when she spoke to adults immediately after the incident, she told Brown's attorney, Sterling Coleman, in a sharp exchange.

"I didn't want to think about it right then and there," she said.

The girl said she had planned to tell her parents that evening but reported the incident to the school counselor after her science teacher noticed that she looked like she was ready to cry and sent her to see the counselor.

She said she was bleeding slightly after the alleged rape and borrowed a feminine napkin from a friend but threw it away while in the school's health clinic.

A doctor's examination at Henry Ford Hospital that afternoon, however, found no evidence of bleeding or trauma to the girl's genital area.

Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Less said whether penetration occurred didn't matter.

Defense attorneys Coleman, Anthony Chambers and Richard Morgan Jr. suggested the girl willingly participated in a sex act with **Dawson**. Morgan ticked off a list of boys' names, asking the girl whether she had engaged in sex acts with them. Each time, the girl said no.

Dawson's attorney, Todd Perkins, was less confrontational. During his cross-examination, the girl admitted she told an adult about the incident only after other kids teased her.

Dawson and Brown face up to life in an adult prison if convicted.

The two younger teens have been designated for adult treatment by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, meaning that if they are convicted, a judge could sentence them to prison or juvenile rehabilitation or give them a sentence that includes both.

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Page: 1B

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