

LIFE TERM GIVEN IN MURDER BY FIRE - KIN OF 5 DEAD KIDS SEE KILLER PUT AWAY

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, August 24, 2006

Author: L.L. BRASIER, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Taliegha Dean, 10, planned to be a lawyer. Her brother Craig, 8, wanted to be a world-famous chef. Aaron, 7, was hoping for a career as a soccer player. And little Eugene, who turned 6 the day he died, dreamed of becoming a firefighter.

The man convicted of setting a house on fire in 2000 that killed the Dean children, along with their friend Michelle Frame, 11, was sent to prison for life Wednesday, but not before insisting he was innocent.

"I'm deeply sympathetic ... but I didn't do this horrible crime," **Juwan Deering**, 35, told a packed courtroom as he stood in orange jail garb, shackled at the waist and ankles, surrounded by deputies.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy Potts showed little patience for **Deering**. Police and prosecutors say **Deering** splashed lighter fluid on the wooden porch of the Deans' Royal Oak Township home, then lit a match, because he was angry the children's father owed him \$200 for drugs.

"This is a case where five children died a senseless death so that a drug dealer could send a message," Potts told **Deering** as she sent him away to serve a life sentence. She also ordered that he pay \$10,000 in restitution to the Dean and Frame families for burial costs.

Marie Dean, 45, mother of four of the dead children, did not speak in court, but Michelle's father did.

Paul Frame took a deep breath and smiled outside the courtroom following the sentencing. "We move on from here," he said. "And he's going where he belongs."

Deering was convicted this month of first-degree murder after a two-week trial. His attorney pledged to appeal.

Contact L.L. BRASIER at 248-858-2262 or brasier@freepress.com.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo RICHARD LEE Detroit Free Press

CAPTION: Paul Frame and Marie Dean talk Wednesday after **Juwan Deering** was sentenced to life in prison for killing Frame's daughter and four of Dean's children in a house fire in 2000 in Royal Oak Township.

DISCLAIMER: THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THE
PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 5B

Index Terms: prison; arson; homicide; children; multiple death; House

Record Number: dfp0000314005

Copyright (c) Detroit Free Press. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett
Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.