

## **A PAROLE VIOLATOR IS CHARGED IN TOT'S DEATH - DETROIT POLICE SAY HE CONFESSED TO BEATING**

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The 15-month-old girl ignored an order to stop walking toward an electrical outlet. The man, Detroit police say, responded by punching, kicking, stomping and ultimately killing Shakeima Richardson.

What's worse, police say, her alleged killer should have been behind bars. He was wanted on a **parole** violation.

On Thursday, Kenyon Barkley, 29, was **charged** with first-degree murder **in** connection with the **death** of Shakeima, who was found dead **in** her Detroit home Tuesday morning.

Barkley was wanted on a **parole** violation. The state's Department of Corrections absconder recovery unit had been looking for him since Nov. 12. He **is** the live- **in** boyfriend of Shakeima's mother.

"If he's a parolee, he's our responsibility," Leo Lalonde, spokesman for the Corrections Department, said Thursday.

Shakeima's case comes a day after state officials issued an apology for mistakenly paroling Daniel Franklin, 33. Franklin, a convicted drug dealer, **is** accused of killing his ex-wife, Machekia Robinson, 28, and her two daughters, Rockell Johnson, 10, and Taria Johnson, 8, **in** their Pontiac townhouse. Their bodies were found June 23.

The deadly error has prompted prison officials to review nearly 500 other early releases.

Michigan has about 2,200 **parole violators** a day -- half **in** Wayne County -- according to Sgt. Larry Crider of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

**In** January, Detroit Police Chief Jerry Oliver and Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans announced a partnership aimed at taking fugitives off the streets.

Crider said the the Fugitive Apprehension Service Team has led to more than 1,000 arrests.

"Still, it's hard to keep up with the **parole violators** , just because of the numbers," Crider said.

One day after Shakeima's **death** , her mother, Rosalee Brown, 30, gave birth to **a** girl at Hutzel Hospital. Barkley **is** not the baby's father, police said. The child will be placed **in** protective services.

Because she was pregnant and **in** the bed with Shakeima, police initially believed Brown may have rolled over on the girl and suffocated her. Brown came home at 9 p.m. Monday and laid next to her daughter **in a** double bed, police said.

The next morning she found that her daughter was not breathing and called 911, according to police reports. She was dead on arrival at Henry Ford Hospital.

Homicide Sgt. John Jenkins said police learned that Shakeima died of blunt force trauma to the head, chest and abdomen, and bleeding to the brain.

"We have confirmed that" Barkley "beat the child on several occasions," Jenkins said Thursday. "There are fresh bruises and old bruises to the child, along with **a** black eye."

Detroit Police Deputy Chief Harold Cureton said Barkley confessed to homicide investigators that he punched the child because she ignored his order to stop moving toward an electrical outlet.

"He also stomped on her," Cureton said. "This was **a** horrific crime."

Two other children, ages 6 and 4, who lived **in** the home on the 48200 block of Montgomery, were taken into protective custody.

Shakeima's father, Guy Richardson of Detroit, said he had warned Brown, whom he dated for about **a** year, about Barkley.

Richardson said he periodically saw Shakeima with **a** bruise on her head, but his ex-girlfriend always explained that her older sons were just playing too rough.

Barkley has two felony convictions -- one for carrying **a** concealed weapon and possession of cocaine. Police say he used an alias when first interviewed. They learned his real identity through Brown.

Shakeima **is** the fourth Detroit child to die this year, allegedly at the hands of an adult.

Funeral arrangements are pending at McFall Brothers Funeral Home **in** Detroit.

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Caption: Photo

Kenyon Barkley, 29, **ischarged**in Shakeima's **death** .

FOLLOWING CUTLINE RAN **IN** METRO FINAL EDITION PAGE 1A:  
Shakeima Richardson was found dead at home Tuesday.

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