

Man charged in Detroit deaths; Funeral plans set for Thursday

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DETROIT -- The 31-year-old ex-convict remained incarcerated at the Wayne County Jail Saturday without bond in the brutal slayings of two **young** children, their mother and her friend.

Patrick Albert Young Smith was arraigned through a video conference 5:30 p.m. Friday. He is charged with four counts of felony murder and four counts of first-degree murder.

The court entered a not guilty plea and **Smith** was not represented by a lawyer, court officials said.

Police and prosecutors said **Smith** fatally shot Jason Davis, 34; Lynette Lawson, 28, and her two children, Alexis Eppinger, 9, and Terrance Eppinger, 6, in Davis' home on Clairmount around 3 a.m. Thursday.

At his hearing, bond was denied, which is standard for first-degree murder cases, the prosecutor's office said Saturday. **Smith** faces an Oct. 30 preliminary exam on the charges, according to jail records.

Smith is also charged with being a felon using a firearm to commit a crime and being a felon in possession of a controlled substance, according to the Wayne County prosecutor's office. Additionally, he is charged with being a habitual offender because he previously was convicted of delivering a controlled substance, attempted delivery of a controlled substance and escaping from jail, according to the prosecutor's office.

On Saturday, police were not releasing a motive for the horrific slayings.

Smith has not confessed, but investigators felt they had enough evidence to pursue the charges, police said Saturday.

Funeral arrangements for Lawson and her family are set, according to the Wilson-Adkins Funeral Home.

A public viewing will take place from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 13651 Dequindre, in Detroit.

A funeral service for Lawson and her children will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the church. Visitation will be held for 30 minutes before the service.

Funeral arrangements for Davis on Saturday were not available.

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