

## MAN GUILTY IN DEATH OF BABY ISAIAH - INFANT WAS HANDED TO HIM AT BUS STOP

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Author: SUZETTE HACKNEY FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The man accused of fatally beating a 3-month-old infant who was given to him at a bus stop, was convicted of second-degree murder by a Wayne County jury Monday.

**Harold Reed**, 49, showed no emotion after the verdict was read. He also was found guilty of first-degree child abuse and felony murder. **Reed**, who will be sentenced by Judge Thomas Brookover on April 1, faces life in prison with no chance of parole.

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated for a total of three hours Friday afternoon and Monday morning. **Reed** was initially charged with first-degree murder, but jury members said evidence was lacking that his actions were premeditated.

"I think it's a good verdict," said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Michael Wagner. "Felony murder carries a mandatory life sentence, and that was our goal."

Still, Wagner said the case is a tragedy because a child was killed. Isaiah was described as an infant who smiled often, and had nearly mastered holding up his head.

**Reed**'s defense attorney, W. Frederick Moore, spoke with jury members after the verdict was read. He said they ruled on the evidence presented to them.

"He's disappointed in the decision of the jury," Moore said, referring to **Reed**. "I'm disappointed, too."

**Reed** killed 3-month-old Isaiah Lewis last August, after he was handed the infant by his mother, Shaniqua Betty. She had been fighting with her boyfriend, and had fled the house with Isaiah wrapped only in a towel.

Betty, 21, met **Reed** at a bus stop at Woodward and State Fair, and asked him to watch Isaiah while she returned home to get her belongings. When she returned, **Reed** and Isaiah were gone.

Betty testified that she gave Isaiah to **Reed** because he seemed friendly and promised not to hurt the baby. Betty, who left the courtroom without commenting Monday, faces charges of second-degree child abuse for her role in Isaiah's death. Her trial is scheduled for this spring.

Police conducted an exhaustive six-day search in the hopes that Isaiah was still alive. The infant's decomposing body was found Aug. 9 under a mattress in an abandoned house.

Throughout the trial, Moore suggested that Isaiah's father hit the infant, causing the injuries. Moore said Betty was so afraid for her child and herself that she left their Exeter Street home without shoes, a purse or diaper bag.

**Reed** confessed to police that he hit the baby to stop him from crying. Isaiah sustained three skull fractures and two jaw fractures.

A medical examiner testified that Isaiah lost consciousness and instantly died from the blows to the head.

Contact SUZETTE HACKNEY at 313-222-6672 or [hackney@freepress.com](mailto:hackney@freepress.com).

Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press. Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press (left); Detroit Police Department (right)

**HaroldReed** in court Monday, moments before the jury returned the guilty verdicts. He is to be sentenced April 1. Isaiah Lewis, right, was found dead in August. His mother Shaniqua Betty, left, faces charges of second-degree child abuse in his death.

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Page: 1B

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