

MOM TO BE TRIED ON ABUSE CHARGE IN INFANT'S DEATH SHE LEFT BOY WITH MAN ACCUSED OF KILLING HIM

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The Detroit mother who left her baby with a stranger at a bus stop, never to see him alive again, will face a criminal trial on second-degree child abuse charges.

Shaniqua Betty, 20, was bound over for trial Monday by a 36th District Court magistrate. If convicted, she faces up to four years in prison.

Betty handed her 3-month-old son, Isaiah Lewis, to a man sitting at a bus stop at Woodward and State Fair on Aug. 3. That man, **Harold Reed**, 48, has been charged with murdering Isaiah.

Betty told police she had been fighting with Isaiah's father, Ivan Brown Jr., and stormed out of his Exeter Street house without shoes or a purse. She said she asked **Reed** to hold the baby while she went to get her belongings. When she returned to the bus stop, three-quarters of a mile from the house, **Reed** and Isaiah were gone.

Isaiah's body was found six days later under a mattress in an abandoned house. **Reed**, who has been charged with first-degree murder and child abuse, led police to the baby's body. He is being held in the Wayne County Jail.

Brown, 37, testified Monday that his argument with Betty started over medication the baby was being given for a mouth infection.

Brown said he thought Betty was giving the baby too much. He said the argument then moved from Isaiah to his ex-girlfriend.

Brown testified that he swung at Betty while she was holding Isaiah, but he didn't know whether he hit her. He also said he grabbed her forcefully by the arms while she was still holding the infant. Then he told her to get out of his house. Brown said Betty grabbed a towel and ran down the steps and out the door with Isaiah.

About an hour later, according to Brown's testimony, Betty returned to the house without Isaiah. The two argued outside and Brown told her to go. She asked for her purse, and he said he threw it out in the street. Brown said he then saw Betty get into someone's car.

The driver was Jermaine Henry, 21, who testified Monday that he was driving down Exeter and was stopped by Betty, who was screaming and told him someone had just jumped on her. "She looked like she'd been fighting and arguing with somebody. You could see she'd been crying."

Henry said he drove Betty to the bus stop where she told him she had left her baby. Henry said she became hysterical when she realized the man holding Isaiah was gone.

On Monday, Betty's attorney, Steven Fishman, argued that Betty thought she was protecting her child and felt she did nothing wrong by leaving the infant.

Fishman asserted that the argument between Brown and Betty was different.

"There is no testimony in this record that shows that Miss Betty knew that what she did was wrong," he said.

Betty, who has been certified as educablymentally impaired, was a court ward from age 11 to 19 in Oakland County because she had been abused by her father.

Court records show that she had a history of psychological problems.

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Caption: Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Shaniqua Betty listens Monday in 36th District Court in Detroit, where she was bound over for trial in the death of her son, 3-month-old Isaiah Lewis, whom she left at a bus stop. She is charged with second-degree child abuse.

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