

POLICE: MAN SAID HE BEAT BABY TRIAL ORDERED IN DEATH - HE SAID HE WAS DRUNK AND HE 'LOST CONTROL'

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Convicted child molester **Harold Reed** told Detroit police last month that he was "intoxicated and lost control" when he beat a 3-month-old baby to death to stop it from crying, according to testimony at **Reed** 's preliminary examination in Detroit on Wednesday.

After hearing three of four statements police said **Reed** gave to investigators, 36th District Judge Ted Wallace ordered **Reed** to stand trial on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder and first-degree child abuse in the Aug. 3 death of Isaiah Lewis. **Reed** is being held without bond pending a Sept. 28 arraignment in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Reed told police a woman he did not know gave him a baby at a bus stop on State Fair near Woodward about 1 a.m. Aug. 3. The woman, 20-year-old Shaniqua Betty, told police she thought she could trust the stranger for a few minutes, but when she returned to the bus stop, the man and her son were gone.

Reed led police to the infant's body shortly after midnight Aug. 10. The body, found under a mattress in a vacant house a few blocks from the bus stop, was in an advanced stage of decomposition.

An autopsy showed the baby had suffered three skull fractures and his lower jaw was broken in two places.

Betty, who has been charged with third-degree child abuse for giving her baby to a stranger, came to the hearing but was not allowed to sit through testimony because she likely will be a witness at **Reed** 's trial. She declined comment.

Reed was arrested late Aug. 9 after his niece, Dianna Dellihue, saw a televised report about the missing baby. The report included security camera video of a man, identified by Dellihue as **Reed** , holding a baby in a convenience store, yards from the bus stop.

Admitting he had the baby that night, **Reed** led detectives to an abandoned house in the 900 block of Penrose, Detective Ira Todd of the Violent Crimes Task Force testified.

Todd said that while walking upstairs in the trash-cluttered house, he smelled the foul odor of a decomposing body. **Reed** repeatedly told detectives he put the baby on the mattress -- crossing off the word "under" and writing "on" in his statements -- but the body was found under the mattress.

On the way out of the house, Todd said **Reed** commented, "I can't believe I showed you guys that."

Reed initially told Todd the baby died after he accidentally dropped it. His story changed under further questioning by other detectives and, according to two statements read in court Wednesday, **Reed** said he struck the child five or six times with his fists.

Homicide Detective Moises Jimenez said he was troubled that **Reed** kept referring to Isaiah as "it," so he showed **Reed** a doll, and **Reed** briefly broke into tears. **Reed** repeatedly denied to police that he had sexually molested Isaiah Lewis. In his first statement, he claimed he didn't know whether the baby was a boy or a girl. Then he said he knew it was a boy because the towel the nude child was wrapped in came undone when he dropped the baby.

Reed was convicted in 1991 of molesting a 10-year-old boy in a suburb of Pittsburgh.

In his statements describing the baby's death, **Reed** said he had been treated fairly by Detroit police who at one point brought him several Coney Island hot dogs.

"Boy, they look good, thank you," **Reed** exclaimed.

In two handwritten notes he gave to police, **Reed** apologized to the baby's parents.

"I am really sorry your child's dead," **Reed** wrote. "I was trying to find you. I walked up and down the street looking for you. I'm sorry."

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Caption: Photo

HaroldReed

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