

SLAYING CASE IS IN HANDS OF JURY - BABY ISAIAH WAS LEFT WITH MAN AT BUS STOP

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Author: BEN SCHMITT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

He led police to a lifeless 3-month-old baby in an abandoned house and signed a confession admitting to beating the child, prosecutors told a jury in the case of a man charged with murder.

The defendant, **Harold Reed**, 49, didn't like what he heard and interrupted Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Michael Wagner several times during closing arguments Friday.

Reed did not testify but uttered things like "That's a lie," when Wagner detailed evidence in the case. The outbursts caused Judge Thomas Brookover to stop the arguments and take the jury out of the courtroom for several minutes.

"Mr. **Reed**, you chose not to testify and you cannot speak," the judge said.

Wagner continued with his closing arguments after the interruptions.

"Five skull fractures, a child abandoned under a mattress in an abandoned home; what other intention could there be?"

"What we have here is a defenseless, helpless child that is unmercifully beaten," Wagner told jurors.

Reed is on trial charged with first-degree murder, accused of fatally beating Isaiah Lewis last summer. Jurors in Wayne County Circuit Court deliberated for an hour before being sent home for the weekend. Deliberations will continue Monday.

Isaiah disappeared Aug. 3 when his mother, Shaniqua Betty, trusted **Reed** to watch her baby at a bus stop at Woodward and State Fair while she ran to her Exeter Street home to get some belongings. She never saw her son alive again.

Betty testified that she had been fighting with her boyfriend and had run barefoot from their home without a purse or diaper bag. "I was crying. I didn't know what to do," Betty testified.

Wagner directed jurors to pay attention to **Reed**'s confession to Detective Ira Todd of the Detroit Police Department's violent crimes section that he punched the baby in the head and to police testimony that **Reed** led officers six days later to the dead baby in an abandoned house on Penrose. An autopsy report said Isaiah died almost immediately. He had three head fractures and two jaw fractures.

Reed 's defense attorney, W. Frederick Moore, told jurors that Betty feared her boyfriend. Moore pointed out that Betty ran out of the home without shoes and without her purse or diaper bag.

"Ms. Betty felt it was a better option to hand her baby to a stranger than return home with the baby," Moore told the jury.

Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-222-6597 or schmitt@freepress.com.

Caption: Photo

HaroldReed is charged with first-degree murder in the baby's death. Shaniqua Betty

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