

## SUSPECT'S TRIAL BEGINS IN CHILD'S FATAL BEATING

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Daniel Woodward, a month shy of turning 2, made the mistake many children his age make: He wet his pants.

But Daniel paid for his mistake with his life, police and prosecutors say. Officials say **Roderick Bailey**, 33, Daniel's sometime baby-sitter and his mother's boyfriend, became enraged that Daniel wet himself and that he couldn't find Daniel's mother. So enraged that he fatally beat Daniel in their west side Detroit home.

Police say Bailey tried to cover up the crime by telling a neighbor that the boy had fallen down the stairs. Daniel died from bleeding on his brain and contusions to his liver Oct. 16.

During opening statements in Wayne County Circuit Court on Tuesday, Robert Moran, a Wayne County assistant prosecutor, said Daniel was left with Bailey Oct. 15 while the toddler's mother, Cherice Woodward, went to work. Moran said Bailey kept the child for nearly 12 hours, but became upset when Daniel wet himself.

"He became so upset that he beat him," Moran said. "He beat him in the chest. He beat him in the head."

Moran acknowledged that at the time of his death, Daniel had old bruises. "He was not well-cared-for," Moran said. "You may hate the mother, but she didn't kill her child."

Bailey's defense attorney, Carla Marable, said Bailey was a "loving, caring family man" who has three children of his own.

She said Cherice Woodward constantly abused her child.

"This poor baby had injuries going back six months -- this baby was severely abused by Ms. Woodward," Marable said. "He had injuries from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet." Cherice Woodward has not been charged in Daniel's death.

Dr. Francisco Diaz, an assistant Wayne County medical examiner, did not refute Marable's claims, but did testify that those older injuries did not kill Daniel.

"Daniel Woodward had multiple scars, multiple abrasions and contusions, and the majority of them were in different stages of healing," Diaz said, adding that he was confident the fatal injuries occurred within 24 hours of Daniel's death.

Detroit police homicide investigator Barbara Simon testified that she questioned Bailey at headquarters the day Daniel was taken to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

Simon, who read Bailey's statement in court, said Bailey admitted to hitting Daniel with his hands and fists multiple times after he wet his clothes.

When Bailey was asked why he beat the boy, he said to Simon: "I was upset. I didn't know where his mother was and he messed on himself."

At the end of the interrogation, Bailey said to Simon: "I'm sorry for what I've done today."

If convicted of felony murder and first-degree child abuse, Bailey could face life in prison.

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Caption: Photo

**Roderick Bailey**, 33, told police, "I'm sorry for what I've done." Daniel Woodward, almost 2, was hit for wetting his pants.

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