

TEEN TO BE TRIED AS ADULT IN DEATH - BOY, 16, CHARGED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF HIS BEST FRIEND

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A 16-year-old boy could face life in prison for last week's fatal shooting of his best friend, 14-year-old Gordon Watson.

Watson is one of 18 metro Detroit children killed in homicides so far this year.

Arnell (Nelly) **Bowden** of Detroit was arraigned Friday on charges of first-degree murder and possession of a firearm during a felony.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office decided to charge **Bowden** as an adult based on police reports that he pointed a 9mm handgun at Watson, said "I got you, now," and then fired once hitting the boy in the head, officials said.

Bowden 's mother, Wendy **Bowden** , said in an interview Friday that her son would never intentionally hurt someone he considered his best friend and that the shooting was an accident.

"I want to apologize to the family," Wendy **Bowden** said. "I feel really bad for their loss and my son feels the same way. . . . It was clearly an accident, and I don't know why they charged him as an adult."

The shooting occurred about 4 p.m. Aug. 16 after **Bowden** went into his grandmother's house in the 3100 block of East Palmer to use the bathroom. Watson went to the rear door, which was suddenly opened by **Bowden** , who fired the gun, muttered an expletive, dropped the gun and ran, police said. **Bowden** turned himself in to police Sunday.

Bowden is being held without bond in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility pending a preliminary examination, set for Wednesday.

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