

DETROIT: FOSTER KIDS TESTIFY ON LIFE WITH ISAAC - ONE TELLS OF JOY, ANOTHER OF ABUSE

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The home of Charlsie Adams-Rogers was either a safe haven full of love or a dirty, unsupervised place where there was open drug use by teens, sometimes little food and where a 12-year-old girl **with** emotional problems was allowed to care for two small children.

Adams-Rogers, **on** trial **on** charges of involuntary manslaughter and child abuse in the death of 2-year-old **Isaac** Lethbridge, watched Wednesday as former **foster** children, one of her grandsons and a hired caregiver gave sometimes-conflicting accounts of what went **on** in her Detroit home in the days leading up to the boy's death **on** Aug. 16, 2006. The 60-year-old also faces a child abuse charge involving **Isaac's** 4-year-old sister.

Countering earlier testimony, Cherish Raymond, 17, told Wayne County Circuit Court jurors that she never saw Adams-Rogers' 12-year-old adopted daughter hit **Isaac** or his sister, that there was always food in the house and that teens never used drugs in the home.

"It was warm and loving," said Raymond, a **foster** child who stayed **with** Adams-Rogers **on** Aug. 13-16, 2006, while her **foster** parents were out of town. "Lots of **kids**, lots of laughter, lots of joy," she said.

But Hope Bryant, 16, a **foster** child who lived two years **with** Adams-Rogers, said she saw the 12-year-old hit **Isaac with** a remote control. When the boy cried, the girl "started laughing," Bryant said.

Raymond acknowledged that she slept within a few feet of Adams-Rogers' 17-year-old grandson Le Ron Rogers, and that the teens were up late without adult supervision. She slept in the den, while Rogers was in an adjacent room.

"She couldn't see me. I couldn't see her," testified Rogers, who denied that teens used drugs in the house.

In two hours of questioning, live-in caregiver Deborah Roberts testified that she was not told the 12-year-old girl had problems managing anger or **with** acting out sexually. Adams-Rogers has said the girl accidentally killed **Isaac** while throwing him onto a mattress.

Jurors also saw photographs of **Isaac's** bruises and burns and heard testimony from doctors. A doctor said a steam iron could have caused the burns.

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CAPTION: **Isaac** Lethbridge, 2, was bruised and burned before he died **on** Aug. 16, 2006. His **foster** mother is charged in his death.

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