

DETROIT: LOUD TV DROWNED OUT BEATING - TESTIMONY GIVEN IN DEATH OF 2-YEAR-OLD

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The **TV** set in the bedroom of a northwest Detroit home blared loudly for more than two hours last August while a 2-year-old foster child was burned and beaten to death, cruelty apparently witnessed by the boy's 4-year-old sister.

But exactly who beat Isaac Lethbridge to death in the licensed foster home of Charlsie Adams-Rogers still is not known, although testimony during a trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on Monday portrayed a now-13-year-old emotionally disturbed and impulsive girl as the likely killer.

Adams-Rogers, 60, is charged with involuntary manslaughter and child abuse in Isaac's Aug. 16 death in her foster home licensed through the Lula Belle Stewart Center, a private agency in Detroit.

Isaac's final hours were described by Adams-Rogers' 19-year-old daughter, Leantea Jones, who is the sister of the 13-year-old girl suspected of killing Isaac. In 2006, both girls were adopted by Adams-Rogers, who was aware of the younger girl's emotional problems, according to testimony before Judge Vera Massey Jones.

Leantea Jones, who was treated as a hostile witness by prosecutor Lisa Lindsey, said she would lie to protect her sister or Adams-Rogers.

"What goes on in our house, stays in our house," Jones said.

Jones said she awoke at 1 p.m. that day and saw Isaac standing alone in Adams-Rogers' bedroom watching television. "He wanted to leave" the room, she said, and she told him he could.

She said she went back to bed for an hour, then got up and left her bedroom, where her sister, Isaac and his sister and at least one other child were playing.

Jones said she went into her mother's bedroom and watched soap operas for the next two hours. She said she had to turn up the volume on her **TV** because the **TV** in her bedroom with the kids was so **loud**.

About 4 p.m., Jones said, she cleaned the bathtub to take a bath, went back into her bedroom and found Isaac lying under a blanket on the bottom mattress of a bunk bed.

It was a hot day and she pulled the blanket off the boy and leaned over the bed to open the window.

She then saw that he had turned blue and would not awaken.

She said she took him to the hallway and began performing CPR while calling for Adams-Rogers.

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