

Mom , tot killed in murder - suicide

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DETROIT -- A year ago, Siraquana Cotton obtained an order of protection against her estranged boyfriend, Charles "Eastwood" Epperson.

In making the request, Cotton wrote that Epperson had called her cell phone and threatened to kill her, authorities said.

On Thursday morning -- eight days before the order was to expire -- police say Epperson, 28, shot to death Cotton, 25, and her 2-year-old daughter, Marissa Mosley, at her home **in** the 11000 block of Promenade Street. Less than 12 hours after the shooting, Epperson jumped to his death **in** the Detroit River.

Cotton's sister Natasha Cook said she was sitting **in** a chair near the kitchen while Cotton, a hairstylist, was doing her hair. About 11:30 p.m., the front door came crashing down.

"Eastwood was standing **in** the door, soaking wet, with a gun **in** his hand," Cook said. "He tried to grab me but I snatched away and ran from him."

Cook said that's when Epperson started shooting at her sister, a bullet hitting her **in** the head.

"I grabbed Marissa, but she snatched away and said she wanted her **mom** , and that's when he shot her," Cook said.

Serelda Jones, another sister who was **in** the home at the time, said the seven survivors **in** the house streamed out into the street after the shootings because Epperson threatened to kill everyone as he fled.

Cotton's father, Bobby Howard, said Cotton and Epperson had dated on and off for three or four years and they have a 6-month-old son, also named Charles.

"There is a history of domestic violence (between Cotton and Epperson)," said Detroit Police Department spokeswoman Yvette Walker.

According to Detroit police records, Epperson was convicted **in** 1997 of felonious assault and assault with a deadly weapon **in** a domestic violence case. He served time **in** prison from 1998 to 2003.

Police searched for Epperson on Thursday morning and received a call about 11:30 a.m. from a screaming woman who reported that a man jumped into the Detroit River near Atwater and Chene. Police identified the body as that of Epperson about three hours later.

Caption: Cotton Epperson

Section: Metro

Page: 02B

Company Name: #keywords2#

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