

DETROIT TEENAGER CONVICTED OF KILLING PROBATION OFFICER

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A Detroit teenager was convicted Tuesday on a reduced charge of second-degree murder in the strangulation death of his juvenile court probation officer.

Terrell Banks, standing trial as an adult, was found guilty of killing Mary Fine Aug. 26, 1986, in the basement of his home on the 5200 block of Junction.

Banks, now 17, showed no emotion as Recorder's Court Judge James Chylinski announced the verdict.

Defense lawyer Myzell Sowell comforted **Banks**' mother, Wanda Moore, outside court, saying: "Second-degree was the best we could hope for."

Chylinski, who heard the two-day trial without a jury, ruled the prosecution failed to prove that **Banks** robbed and strangled Fine. Proof of premeditation or another crime was needed to support the first-degree murder charge, Chylinski said.

Banks faces a maximum penalty of life in prison, with possibility of parole, at his Nov. 10 sentencing. First-degree murder carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison without parole.

According to testimony, Fine, 42, of Grosse Pointe Park, had kept an appointment to see **Banks** at his home regarding his truancy from school.

Fine called her office about 4 p.m. from **Banks**' home, and less than an hour later her beaten and strangled body was found behind **Banks**' home, according to testimony. Fine's shoes and purse were missing.

A neighbor testified she found the body after **Banks** casually told her that "a dead lady was in his backyard."

Police found Fine's artificial eye, earrings and pocket date book inside the home. A length of rope was found tied to **Banks**' bed.

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