

DETROIT TEENAGER CONVICTED OF KILLING PROBATION OFFICER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, October 28, 1987

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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.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 7A;

Index Terms: DETROIT ; VERDICT ; HOMICIDE ; JUVENILE ; COURT ; TRIAL

Record Number: 8702210093

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