

DETROIT GIRL ENTERS GUILTY PLEA IN SEX ASSAULT - TRIAL FOR 3 OTHER TEENS IS DELAYED OVER STATUS

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A 13-year-old Detroit girl pleaded guilty Monday for her role in the sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl inside Hutchins Middle School in May, but the trial of three other youths was delayed because of confusion over their trial status as adults or juveniles.

The 13-year-old, whose name is being withheld by the Free Press because of her age, pleaded guilty to enticing a juvenile for immoral purposes, a misdemeanor, before Wayne County Family Court Judge Mary Beth Kelly.

Kelly, who can sentence the girl as an adult or a juvenile, ordered a psychological examination and a study of the girl's family situation by the court's probation department.

The girl could be given probation, a one-year jail sentence or be sent to a juvenile rehabilitation program.

The trial for three other youths charged in the incident -- **Audi Dawson** and Dominique Brown, both 15, and a 14-year-old boy -- was scheduled to start Monday before Wayne County Circuit Judge Patricia Fresard.

Dawson and Brown were charged as adults by Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan. Duggan's office also designated the 14-year-old boy, who is too young to be charged automatically as an adult, to be tried as an adult in juvenile court. That status means that, if convicted, the boy could be sentenced to probation or prison as an adult or to rehabilitation in a juvenile program.

But Fresard on Monday told lawyers that the paperwork from the court's juvenile section did not clearly identify any of the youths as having adult status. Without that, Fresard said a juvenile court would have to sentence all three.

Fresard ordered the lawyers to return to the juvenile section to clarify the youths' status.

On June 11, Juvenile Court Judge Frances Pitts ordered all four to stand trial. Pitts was sitting then as a juvenile and district court judge to avoid having the 12-year-old girl testify in two courts.

But Pitts was unavailable Monday, so the status matter went before Kelly, who filled out the necessary paperwork.

Barring further complications or a plea agreement, the trial for the three youths should start today before Fresard and two juries: one for **Dawson** and Brown, and one for the 14-year-old boy.

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