

COP SHOOTING VICTIM LED SHORT, TROUBLED LIFE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, September 3, 1992

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Sixteen-year-old **Kathy Moore** had a history of defying authority figures.

On Tuesday, the Detroit girl stole a social worker's car from an 8 Mile Road office where she was scheduled for therapy. Later she was shot to death in a struggle with a Detroit police officer.

Court records mark the beginning of **Kathy Moore** 's troubles in 1989, when her mother called police after she ran away from home five times.

A judge ordered her into the custody of the state Department of Social Services in 1989, and Moore bounced from institution to group home to transient hotel.

The state blamed many of the moves on Moore, who they said was uncontrollable. She was moved from one group home because neighbors threatened to try to shut it down because of her, a DSS official said.

A large girl at nearly 6 feet tall and more than 200 pounds, Moore was known in the neighborhood where she recently lived as a tomboy who could fight. She died while fighting, police said.

After stealing the social worker's car Tuesday, Moore drove erratically, said Officer Charles Smith, who tried to pull her over. The teenager drove off, hitting two parked cars.

When she stopped after hitting the second car around 5:30 p.m. at Grand River and Greenfield, Smith approached with his revolver drawn.

Moore tried to escape from the passenger door, but Smith pulled her back. Moore tried to fight him off, and the gun fired, he said.

Detectives on Wednesday said their initial investigation shows the shooting was accidental. Police said having a gun drawn after a chase was normal and proper procedure.

The family's attorney isn't satisfied.

"I think there's going to be this huge question mark around why he has this gun out," Arlene Woods said. "He was not in a life-threatening situation. . . . What was the need in utilizing the weapon in apprehending her?"

Woods also was critical of DSS for its treatment of Moore, who since May had lived in four transient hotels with the state's knowledge. She was kicked out of some of them for bad behavior, a state official said.

"It is reprehensible," Woods said. "DSS is charged with the responsibility of protecting our children. . . ."

Moore's sister and brother-in-law declined comment. Woods suggested that the girl became like the labels placed on her by adults who did not know how to care for her.

"This is a label that adults have attributed to her because they don't understand how to deal with this young person," she said.

Edition: METRO FINAL CHASER

Section: NWS

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Index Terms: DETROIT ; SHOOTING ; DEATH ; AUTOMOBILE ; CHASE ; JUVENILE ;
KATHY MOORE

Record Number: 9202020418

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