

EXAM SET FOR TEEN ACCUSED OF KILLING DAD

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, October 17, 1997
Author: SUZANNE SIEGEL Free Press Staff Writer

A Detroit teenager faces a hearing today on charges that he killed his father, allegedly because the father was threatening to drag the troubled boy to school and beat him for cutting classes.

A witness told police that on the morning of the killing, 16-year-old Saquario Cooper paced outside the bedroom of his father, 32-year-old **Alfonso Jenkins**, saying: "I got to do it ...I got to do it."

Cooper was arraigned last week on charges of first-degree murder, assault with intent to commit murder and using a firearm in a felony. His preliminary examination is set for today in front of 36th District Judge Deborah Lewis-Langston.

Cooper had been cutting classes at the Urban Adult Education Institute, a school for students with problems, and was worried his father would find out, police said.

Cooper's 18-year-old cousin told police **Jenkins** was going to take Cooper to school and beat him there if school officials told him the boy was skipping school. **Jenkins** then told his son he would drag him home, beat him again with a stick and throw him out of the house, the cousin told police.

The teenager's maternal grandmother said the relationship between the father and son was rocky but not abusive.

"They used to get into it from time to time," 60-year-old Bernice Cooper said Thursday. "It was usually about school."

Jenkins, she said, was a disciplinarian. "He tried to keep him on the right track," she said.

She said her grandson had been kicked out of a high school for poor attendance. Court records show he has been arrested for heroin possession, disorderly conduct and truancy. Cooper's lawyer could not be reached Thursday.

Staff writer Suzanne Siegel can be reached at 1-313-222-6672.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 2B

Index Terms: JUVENILE ; HOMICIDE ; PARENT ; DETROIT

Dateline: Detroit

Record Number: 9710170044

Copyright (c) 1997 Detroit Free Press