

Father lunges at woman convicted of killing his son

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DETROIT -- A perfunctory sentencing Wednesday in the Frank Murphy Hall **of** Justice flared into yelling and a brief scuffle as the **father of** one **of** the two young victims tried to charge defendant Sonya O'Neal, **convicted of killing his son** .

O'Neal and Robert Reed, both 36, were facing Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Craig Strong after their Oct. 17 conviction **of** first-degree murder for the shooting deaths **of** Darren Johnson Jr., 11, **of** Oak Park, and **his** 13-year-old cousin, Orlando Herron during a robbery **of** drug house on Mansfield in February.

When O'Neal interrupted the proceedings by shouting that she was not a child killer, Johnson's **father** , Darren Johnson Sr., shouted "You killed my **son** ," as he lunged toward O'Neal.

Wayne County deputies stationed in the courtroom wrestled Johnson down and led him out into a hallway. A witness testified **at** trial that O'Neal had ordered another man to kill the boys and when he refused she grabbed the gun and shot both in the head. The boys were spending the weekend with their cousin, Ronell Thompson, 23, a **convicted** drug dealer when O'Neal, Reed and three other men stormed the house. Reed shot Thompson several times but he survived.

Strong sentenced O'Neal and Reed to mandatory life sentences without parole.

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