

YOUTH CHARGED IN INKSTER GUN - SHOP OWNER 'S KILLING

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With tears **in** their eyes, family members of Clyde Alexander watched Anthony R. Fields Jr. walk into the main courtroom of **Inkster's** 22nd District Court on Monday.

"There is a lot of sadness," said Patricia Alexander, Clyde Alexander's sister- **in** -law. "We're very hurt."

Fields, 17, was the third person to be arraigned on charges related to the death of Clyde Alexander, whose body was found **in** his burned **gun shop** on Aug. 3. Fields was **charged** with one count of first-degree murder, one count of felony murder, one count of arson and one felony count of firearm possession.

His preliminary hearing is to be at 9 a.m. Dec. 15 **in** 22nd District Court.

A not-guilty plea was entered on Fields' behalf by Judge Sylvia James.

If Fields is convicted of first-degree or felony murder, he will spend his life **in** prison. Fields was not eligible for bail.

Alexander of **Inkster** was the co- **owner** of Alexander's Sporting Goods on Michigan Avenue, also **in Inkster** . He was a federally licensed firearms dealer.

The **Inkster** police and fire departments went to the business on Aug. 3 **in** response to a fire.

Police say they believe Fields and two other people robbed Alexander of more than 40 **guns** and then set the fire, leaving the store **owner** to die inside the burning building.

Inkster Police Detective Anthony Delgreco said **in** court Monday that Alexander was found with his hands bound, a laceration to his mouth and a swollen eye from being beaten.

Alexander, who was 54, died of smoke inhalation.

Police said they believe Fields is the principal suspect and that he was the last to leave the burning building.

Inkster police and the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives worked together on the case.

Both agencies will continue to investigate **in** an effort to find the stolen **guns** .

"We are very concerned about the status of these **guns** ," said ATF Special Agent Valerie Goddard. "We know that they were stolen for criminal use."

So far, police have recovered one of the stolen **guns** .

"We will not rest until the weapons are off the street," **Inkster** Police Chief Marvin Winkler said.

In late November, David McKinney, 22, was arraigned on the same charges as Fields. A 14-year-old boy also was arraigned earlier this month **in** juvenile court on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder and arson. Meanwhile, Alexander's family must rely on their memories of the man who always greeted them with a smile.

"He was the nicest sweetest man, so this is really painful," said Tonya Alexander, Clyde Alexander's niece. "He prided himself on helping young black men."

This was the second robbery of a federally licensed firearms dealer **in** the state **in** two years. The last robbery occurred **in** Lapeer **in** 2002.

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