

Boy, 15, to be tried as adult

His friend was fatally shot in argument over \$100

By MARY BETH MURPHY
Sentinel staff writer

A 15-year-old boy, born and raised in a family of killers, will be tried as an adult on charges of fatally shooting a friend twice in the head in an argument over \$100, a judge ruled Wednesday.

The youth allegedly shot 15-year-old Donell Storks in June, believing the boy stole \$100 his grandmother had given him.

The second time he pulled the trigger, the juvenile pointed the gun 6 inches from Storks' head, the delinquency petition said. He was charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

He was scheduled to be charged as an adult Friday.

In the face of his own violent family history, there was a need for the juvenile "to show some sympathy," Children's Court Judge Russell W. Stamper said.

"The outstanding aspect of this matter, in my opinion, is the pause between the first and second shot," Stamper said, noting the medical examiner said either shot would have been sufficient to kill the teen.

"A terrible decision was made by the court today. One that shows that even enlightened judges feel their hands are tied," Robin Shellow, the youth's attorney, said after the hearing. "I feel like we, as a community, have cancer and no one wants to do anything about a cure other than warehouse and execute."

Four Milwaukee Public Schools teachers and an assistant middle school principal plus the education coordinator at New Horizons Center, a residential treatment facility, spoke on the suspect's behalf.

The teachers told the court of the youth's potential and asked that he remain in the juvenile justice system. Several noted his leadership abilities and respectful behavior in school.

Most of the teachers and the administrator talked of spending extra time with the youth when he was in school, taking him to their homes and introducing him to their families. They said they did not know about the boy's traumatic home life because he was so "tight-lipped" about his family.

The youth, who has a 9-month-old son, was absent without leave from New Horizons when he allegedly shot and killed Storks.

Shellow said the youth's out-of-home treatment and detention totaled one year and three months. He entered the social services system at age 2 with a report that he was abused, she said.

Yet, the youth kept being returned to his mother or grandmother, both with a history of mental illness, she said. It was the grandmother who taught the youth how to shoot a gun, Shellow said.

The home life of the suspect has been highly publicized. His great-grandmother killed his great-grandfather, the grandmother killed his grandfather and possibly three other people, his mother killed his stepfather, and his uncle is in prison for killing two police officers.

The grandmother, who attended the hearing, said in an interview that her "grandbaby is just like his uncle. When my son gets mad, he wants to kill somebody."

"I'm like that," she added.