



## Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

### David Leyton, Prosecutor



#### **ISAIAH ZEPHANIAH SMITH SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON TERM FOR THE 2009 MURDER OF MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP FATHER WHO WALKED IN ON HOME INVASION**

**- Victim's 7-Year-old Son Was Waiting for Dad in the Car**

**June 20, 2011**

**FLINT** - Isaiah Zephaniah Smith of Flint, age 24 (dob 7-02-85), was sentenced this morning for the November 13, 2009 shooting death of a Mt. Morris Township man while the victim's 7-year-old son was waiting for him in the car in their driveway. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said that Smith would be 117 years old before he would be released from prison if he serves his maximum term.

Last month, Smith pled guilty to second degree murder, Home Invasion First Degree, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Felony Firearm, and Habitual Offender-Second Offense. He was sentenced to serve a minimum term of 50 years and up to a maximum term of 92 years in state prison.

The case stems from November 13, 2009, when Nohl William O'Connor, 32, had returned to his home on Tremont Street in Mt. Morris Township around 2:00pm after running errands with his 7-year-old son. Upon entering his home, O'Connor encountered an intruder, later identified as Smith, who had broken into the home. After a brief struggle, Smith shot O'Connor several times using O'Connor's own pistol which Smith had found and taken prior to the homeowner's return.

O'Connor's 7-year-old-son was waiting for O'Connor in the car in the driveway when he heard gunshots inside the home. After hearing the gunshots and after his dad failed to return to the car, he went inside the house where he found his dad wounded and motionless on the floor. He used his dad's cell phone to dial 9-1-1.

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