



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO THE 2009 MURDER OF A MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP FATHER WHO WALKED IN ON HOME INVASION - Victim's 7-Year-old Son Was Waiting for Dad in the Car

May 18, 2011

FLINT - Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced today that his office was able to secure a murder plea for the 2009 homicide of a Mt. Morris Township man who was gunned down in his own home while his 7-year-old son was waiting for him in a car in the driveway.

Isaiah Zephaniah Smith of Flint, age 24 (dob 7-02-85), pled to Second Degree Murder for the November 13, 2009 shooting death of Nohl William O'Connor, 32, at O'Connor's Tremont Street home in Mt. Morris Township.

O'Connor had returned to his home around 2:00pm that day after running errands with his 7-year-old son and found an intruder, later identified as Smith, 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.

Along with second degree murder, Smith also pled guilty to Home Invasion First Degree, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Felony Firearm, and Habitual Offender-Second Offense.

The sentence agreement is that O'Connor will serve two years for the Felony Firearm charge consecutive to 40 to 60 years for the Second Degree Murder charge. He will serve an additional and consecutive sentence of 8 to 20 years for the Home Invasion First Degree. He would be 75-years-old before he is eligible to be considered for parole.

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