

Judge hands down separate orders for McDonald brothers

One teen ordered to serve time in Division of Youth Services, other placed on probation

By Jeff Haldiman

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Two brothers involved in last July's robbery and fatal shooting of Christopher DeLoach received two different punishments in court on Tuesday.

Cole County Judge Richard Callahan gave a 10-year prison sentence to Terance McDonald, 17, with the condition that after 120 days of the sentence, he may be given probation.

The judge also allowed Terance to do his time in the Division of Youth Services.

Jurmaine McDonald, 17, was placed on five years' supervised probation.

The brothers had agreed to testify against other defendants so charges of felony murder and felonious restraint against them would be dropped.

They both pleaded guilty to a charge of first-degree robbery and could have gotten as much as life in prison.

Callahan heard more than an hour's worth of testimony during a sentencing hearing for the brothers on Monday, but didn't issue his rulings until late Tuesday afternoon.

In sentencing Terance, the judge said he was impressed that the brothers left the home in the 1000 block of Buena Vista when they realized there was a robbery taking place, but that didn't excuse them from not trying to stop the incident or call the police since the shooting took place a half hour after they left the home.

"There's an old saying, if you ride with outlaws you die with outlaws," Callahan said.

Callahan also said that one reason he gave the prison term to Terance was that he had some behavioral problems in school and the term might help him deal with those problems.

As for granting probation to Jurmaine, the judge cited that he was the youngest of those involved in the incident and that there were a number of people in the community that supported him outside of his family.

"You've entered into adulthood," said Callahan. "I expect you to take this chance and don't make another mistake."

Joining his mother and father in arguing for probation were two of Jurmaine's middle school teachers, who said that he had made a lot of progress in improving his behavior and study skills prior to the crime.

One of the teachers even offered to let Jurmaine come live with her if he were given probation.

Others offering Jurmaine a home were his summer basketball coach Jim Donnelly and his son Jamie.

Both told Callahan that Jurmaine was a great kid and deserved a second chance. "We were at a tournament in Indianapolis when the crime occurred and couldn't believe the news when we got back," said the elder Donnelly. "I was stunned and cried for a week."

The brothers claimed they were just following the lead of Eddie Gordon and Mychael Sangster, who were both in their 20s at the time, while the McDonald brothers both were 16.

Jurmaine and Terance both told the judge it was Gordon and Sangster who planned the robbery.

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bery. "I heard them talk about it on the basketball court," Jurmaine said. "I never went inside the house, but I heard Eddie brag about shooting someone later."

He concluded his testimony by saying "I made a mistake. I feel real bad someone died."

Of the six people charged in the DeLoach murder, only one remains to be sentenced.

Gordon will be sentenced in May after pleading guilty to felony murder, robbery and armed criminal action.

Earlier this month, Sangster got life in prison for second-degree murder.

Also sentenced in connection with the crime were Gregory Hite Jr., who was ordered to concurrently serve 10 years for robbery, five years for felonious restraint and three years for armed criminal action; and Adam Turner, who was given a 10-year term for first-degree robbery.

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