

Teen guilty in beating death, but not murder

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HAMILTON - A Butler County jury convicted a Springfield Township teenager of involuntary manslaughter Thursday in the beating death last year of a 17-year-old Fairfield boy, but acquitted him on a murder charge.

Adrian Reynolds will face up to five years in prison when he is sentenced April 25 as an adult before Butler Common Pleas Judge Patricia Oney.

Reynolds was charged last year with murder while he was 16 years old after authorities said they found Brandon Mitchell beaten to death behind a Fairfield apartment complex last Aug. 13.

Prosecutors contend that Reynolds started the fight, punching and kicking Mitchell several times while he was on the ground until he was unconscious.

But Reynolds' lawyer, Clyde Bennett II, said Mitchell was the one who started the fight by taunting Reynolds. Mitchell then asked Reynolds if he wanted to fight, Bennett said.

Bennett said he and Reynolds' family were elated by the acquittal on the murder charge, because that could have carried up to a life term in prison.

Reynolds admitted punching Mitchell during a fight, but said he did so in self-defense, Bennett said. "It was a fist fight, nothing else," Bennett said.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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