



ATF News



**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Detroit Field Division**

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Teen 'Strong-arm' in Murder of Gun-Shop Owner Gets Life in Prison

Inkster (MI) - Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, Inkster Police Chief Marvin H. Winkler and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Detroit Field Division announced today the sentencing of Anthony R. Fields, Jr., age 17, for the murder of Clyde Alexander, an Inkster gun dealer. Fields is believed to be the "strong-arm" behind the crime spree that included robbery, arson and murder. Fields will spend the rest of his life in prison.

On March 18, 2005, Fields was convicted of one count of first-degree murder, one count of arson and one count of felony firearm. This afternoon, Fields was sentenced before the Honorable Judge Michael Hathaway, Wayne County Circuit Court to life in prison with no possibility of parole for the murder charge and 4 ½-10 years for the arson.

"All of the suspects in this case are very important, however this subject was particularly vicious in his part in this senseless crime," stated Chief Winkler.

On August 3, 2004, at approximately 10:50 a.m., a fire occurred at Alexander's Sporting Goods, 27367 Michigan Avenue in Inkster. The co-owner of the federal firearms business, Clyde Alexander, was beaten and robbed of over 90 guns from his inventory. Mr. Alexander, who was 54, died of smoke inhalation.

SAC Goddard stated, "This was a brutal crime committed against one of our industry members. ATF responded immediately with every available resource and continued to work side-by-side with Inkster homicide detectives and the fire department until this crime was solved. I made a commitment to the Alexander family that we would not rest until someone was held accountable for this crime and my hope is that this verdict and others to come will bring some measure of relief to the Alexander family."

Other defendants in this case have either been charged or convicted. David McKinney, 22, of Detroit is also being prosecuted on the same charges as Fields, and a 14-year-old has already been convicted in juvenile court for second -degree murder and received a juvenile detention until his 21st birthday. The case is still under investigation.

Prosecutor Worthy stated, "This has been a terrible ordeal for the family of Mr. Alexander. I truly hope that the conviction of Anthony Fields will give them some comfort. The Inkster Police Department, ATF and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steve Taratuta worked hard to bring this case together. This joint effort is largely responsible for the successful results in this case. It definitely makes a difference when we all work toward a common goal."

This was the second robbery-murder of a federally licensed firearms dealer in the State of Michigan in the past two years. The first robbery occurred in Lapeer County in 2002. SAC Goddard stressed, "ATF is committed to protecting our industry members and will aggressively investigate any violent crime committed against them."

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