

Miss. teen's appeal set for oral argument

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. - Attorneys for Tyler Edmonds, a teenager convicted of a 2003 murder, will argue his appeal Dec. 13 before the Mississippi Court of Appeals.

The now 15-year-old is serving a life sentence for the slaying of his half-sister's husband.

Edmonds was 13 when he was arrested in 2003. He was convicted of murder in 2004 in Oktibbeha County.

The teenager and his half-sister, Kristi Fulgham, were charged with killing Joseph T. "Joey" Fulgham, 28, at his home in May 2003. Fulgham has not been brought to trial.

Defense attorneys claim Edmonds was pressured by deputies to confess his role in the crime. They said deputies removed Edmonds' mother from the interrogation room and brought in Kristi Fulgham to pressure him to confess.

The defense said Edmonds tried to recant his confession, telling the sheriff and testifying in court that he confessed only to protect his half-sister.

Defense attorneys say Edmonds' tender age prevented him from understanding what was happening. They also argue the confession could have been proved unreliable had the trial judge allowed them to offer expert testimony about false confessions.

Prosecutors counter that everything deputies did to question Edmonds was proper. They say Edmonds' mother was present, until Edmonds asked them to make her leave so he could talk without her being present.

Prosecutors said deputies videotaped the interview, although not required to do so.