



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Sheriff

9th Floor, 201 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

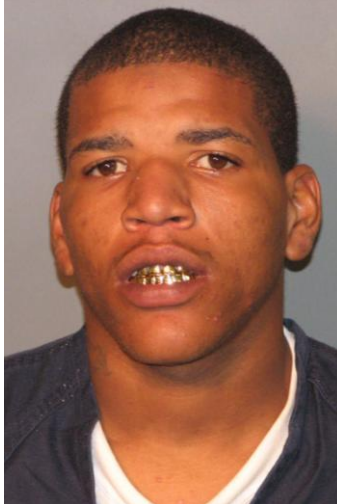
Public Information Officer: Steve Shular

- Office (901) 545-5532 FAX (901) 545-3310 Cell (901) 359-5117
- E mail: steve.shular@shelby-sheriff.org

All news releases may be viewed at www.shelby-sheriff.org in the **News Releases Listing**

February 14, 2010

Murder Trial Defendant Walks Away From Court



Dearick Stokes

Arrest warrants have been issued for a man who walked away from his murder trial yesterday afternoon (Saturday) just moments before jurors returned their verdict.

Dearick Stokes, 21, of Millard Road in south Memphis, also known as Deadrick Stokes, **was free on a \$250,000 bond and not in official custody** when he left the 5th floor courtroom at the Criminal Justice Center.

Stokes was on trial in Criminal Court Division 5 for First Degree Murder and Criminal Attempt Especially Aggravated Robbery. He had been arrested on July 17, 2008 for

killing a man during a robbery attempt on July 13, 2008 that occurred in the 2400 block of Warren Street in south Memphis.

He was later indicted on March 4, 2009 on the charges, stayed in jail until October 3, 2009 when he was released on \$250,000 bond and was still free when his trial began last week. According to court bailiffs, the jury deliberating Stokes' fate notified Judge James Lammey, Jr., it had reached a verdict about 4:30 p.m.

Before jurors re-assembled in the courtroom, Stokes told his attorney he needed to use the restroom. Stokes left the courtroom and never returned. The jury found Stokes guilty of the charges. Judge Lammey revoked Stokes' \$250,000 bond and issued warrants on the murder and attempted aggravated robbery charges as well as a pending domestic assault case.

Anyone with information about Dearick Stokes is asked to call Crime Stoppers at **(901) 528-CASH (2274)** or the Sheriff's Office Fugitive Bureau at **(901) 545-5620**.

(End of Release)