

Region News

Woman not guilty by reason of insanity in stabbing incident

A Lake Ariel woman accused of stabbing her 5-year old son 27 times was found not guilty by reason of insanity on Monday in Wayne County Court.

Janice Taylor of Lake Ariel, who was 38-years-old on July 14, 2000, reportedly told witnesses at the time of the stabbing that her son was “evil”. The young boy survived the incident.

Wayne County President Judge Robert Conway found Taylor not guilty following a bench trial that ended on Monday.

**‘THIS
IS A REAL
TRAGEDY.’**

**Mark Mack
Attorney**

Kingston Attorney Mark Mack, who represented Taylor in Wayne County Court, centered his defense on the testimony of two local experts, Dr. Richard Fischbein and Dr. Matthew Berger, who said Taylor suffered from a mental illness that rendered her not guilty by reason of insanity.

Dr. Robert Sadoff, an expert witness for the Wayne County district attorney’s office, reportedly agreed with the conclusions of the defense psychiatrists and concluded that Taylor was legally insane at the time of the stabbing.

Attorney Mack commented, “This was a real tragedy.”

He added, “After innumerable hours of hard work by myself and my staff, we were able to establish that Mrs. Taylor was in need of treatment, not incarceration.”

Taylor was charged with criminal attempt to commit homicide, aggravated assault, simple assault, reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of her child.

In light of the verdict, she was ordered by the court to undergo out-patient counseling for at least one year.

A few weeks prior to the July 14, 2000, stabbing incident, Taylor reportedly suffered a psychotic episode in which she threatened to kill her son because he was anti-Christ. As a result, her attorneys alleged, she was hospitalized but not placed back on her proper medication.

On July 14, 2000, she reportedly suffered another psychotic episode in which she believed her son was evil and the devil and that her unborn child was the anti-Christ.

Following her arrest on the stabbing charges, she was taken to a hospital where she delivered a daughter.

Taylor has supervised visitation with her young son.