

Criminal Law Unit 11

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Yasin M. Garnett.



Instructions:

1. Read the text.
2. Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

- Competent
- Effective
- Fire
- Murder
- Arson
- Adult
- Rejected
- Serious
- Life
- Juvenile

In 1984, a girl named Garnett was only 14 years old. She was accused of starting a (1) ____ that caused the death of two children. Because of this, she was charged with serious crimes like (2) ____ and ____ (3).

Even though she was a minor, the court decided to try her as an (4) _____. At the end of the trial, she was found guilty and received a sentence of (5) ____ in prison, plus 20 to 40 more years.

Later, Garnett appealed her case. She said her lawyer was not (6) ____ and did not do a good job.

One important issue was her mental condition. Some doctors believed she was not (7) ____ to stand trial, while others believed she was. However, the court decided she was able to understand the trial.

Garnett also argued that she should be judged in the (8) ____ system instead of the adult court. The court disagreed because the crime was very (9) ____.

In the end, the court (10) ____ her appeal, and her sentence stayed the same.