

Trust fund to hold donations for young shooting victim

BY PAUL EGAN
The Detroit News

DETROIT — About \$32,000 has been donated to help care for a 7-year-old girl who took six bullets while trying to save her mother's life.

Wayne County Probate Judge Freddie G. Burton Jr. on Tuesday ordered the creation of the Alexis Goggins Hero Fund, a special needs trust account for the girl.

If anything happens to Alexis, money donated to the fund will go to charity, not the girl's parents as proposed by a lawyer for the girl's mother, Burton ruled.

"I think you compromise the actual goals here of providing for her if you're going to include her mother and father in the financial equation," Burton said.

Alexis remained Tuesday at Children's Hospital, where she has survived five operations and is expected to remain for many more weeks, said Thomas W. Campbell, an attorney for Alexis' mother, Selietta Parker.

On Dec. 2, an ex-boyfriend



opened fire and shot Parker before Alexis stepped into the path of the 9-millimeter bullets, saying, "Don't shoot my mommy," Detroit police and Parker said.

The remarkable story has drawn national attention, and there are plans for Alexis and her mother to appear on the major network morning shows and other TV programs once she is well enough to leave the hospital, Campbell said.

The Northville attorney said it was he, not Parker, who suggest-

How to help

Checks should be made payable to the Alexis Goggins Hero Fund and sent to Thomas F. Campbell, c/o Fausone Bohn LLP, 41820 W. Six Mile, Ste. 103, Northville, MI 48168.

ed that Alexis' family receive any donations if Alexis was to die from her injuries. That suggestion drew objections from attorney John M. Chase Jr., the court-appointed guardian for Alexis.

"I think it's outrageous," Chase told Burton.

"Nobody wants to give (money) to the parents," Chase said. "They want to give it to this little girl," and "anything that's left over should be used by charities."

After a brief recess during which the lawyers met privately with Burton, Campbell agreed to the provision that any money not used for Alexis will go to charity.

Parker has recovered and attended court Tuesday. Alexis' father, Byron L. Goggins, who was also at the hearing, did not object to the terms of the trust fund.

Burton appointed Comerica Bank as temporary trustee.

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