

This firm was appointed by the Accused to be her lawyers in the lengthy trial that was conducted at the Seremban Sessions Court.

Temporary insanity, says defence

SEREMBAN, Fri. — The defence in the trial of a housewife charged with causing the death of a seven-year old boy told the Sessions Court today that her "confession" to a child-abuse specialist after the boy died was inadmissible and should not be taken into consideration.

Defence lawyer Jerald Gomez said his client, Geetha Chandrasekaran, was hysterical and not in her senses when she spoke to Dr Sheila Marimuthu.

Therefore, the confession was made in a moment of temporary insanity, he said.

However, prosecuting officer Assistant Superintendent R.Munusamy said Geetha was coherent, and the conversation with the doctor was not a confession, but an admission.

He said as Geetha was not a patient, the doctor had no authority over her and the conversation, in which she had admitted to beating the boy, was not a confession.

Both the defence and the prosecution were submitting at the trial of Geetha, 35, charged with injuring the boy, leading to his death, at 390, Lorong Bayan 8/1, Taman Desa Rasah, here between 8pm and 10pm on Oct 22, 2001.

Gomez contended that the prosecution had failed to prove a prima facie case.

He said the prosecution had failed to show how and when the injuries on the boy had occurred.

Although the boy's death was due

to blunt trauma on the head, the injuries could have been due to a variety of reasons, such as a fall from the bicycle or bed, he said.

Munusamy argued that the boy had died from blunt trauma on head and abdomen, according to evidence given by the forensic pathologist, who said a fall from a bed or bicycle was unlikely as there were no injuries to the knees and legs.

Munusamy added that the injuries suffered by the boy were consistent with the family's testimony that Geetha had beaten the boy.

Gomez argued that the prosecution witnesses, the boy's father and his sisters, had lied and created a story to pin the blame on the most convenient person.

This was because the family had initially claimed that the boy's injuries were due to a fall from a bicycle, and only changed their story after the father, M.Mohan, had spoken to Dr Sheila.

He said if the injuries were due to an assault on the boy, it was unbelievable that the family would not have acted sooner to stop it.

He said the alleged abuse from old scars present on the boy could not be pinned on her as she worked in Kuala Lumpur and had no access to the boy.

Sessions judge Sabariah Atan fixed Nov 2 for decision on whether to call the accused to enter her defence.

'Stepson intervened in fight'

SEREMBAN, Fri. — A woman charged with causing the death of her young stepson in 2001 said the boy had died trying to intervene while she was fighting with his father.

Geetha Chandrasekaran, 36, said she thought it must have been her fault that the boy died after he tried to intervene in her fight with her husband Mohan Munusamy.

"If only I did not fight with Mohan, he would still be alive. If only the deceased did not try to intervene," she told the Sessions Court, reading from a five-page statement.

Geetha is charged with causing injury to the seven-year-old boy, which led to his death, at 390, Lorong Bayan 8/1, Taman Desa Rasah, here between 8pm and 10pm on Oct 22, 2001.

Today, she gave her statement from the dock after being ordered to enter her defence by Judge Sabariah Atan, who found that the prosecution had proven a

prima facie case.

The boy died after being admitted to the Kuala Lumpur Hospital with extensive head injuries and brain damage.

Besides the head injuries, there were also serious injuries to his body, the extent of which led doctors to believe that he had been a victim of child abuse.

When quizzed about the matter then, family members had claimed that the boy had fallen from a bicycle. They had also said that bruises found on the boy's back had been caused when he fell on a hot kitchen utensil.

Dressed in a white blouse and blue skirt, Geetha was calm throughout the proceedings today.

In her statement, Geetha said that she loved her stepson as if he was her own and was heart broken when he died.

Geetha said on the day of the incident, her husband, Mohan had been on the phone with a woman when

she returned from work.

She claimed Mohan had been having an affair with the woman he was speaking to.

"I confronted him and we began fighting again. He assaulted me again. This time I put on a brave front and I decided to protect myself and I pushed him back.

"I found myself in a struggle with Mohan and the deceased tried to intervene. In the struggle somehow the deceased was flung to a table. He hit his head on the table corner and looked like he fainted almost immediately," she added.

Geetha told the Court that she had no reason to attack the boy, and that she did not have access to her three step-children, and did not have any opportunity to be alone with them.

Geetha also told the court that over the six months that she had been married to the victim's father, she had been subjected to stress and abuse.

The hearing continues on March 14.