

Rockville teen-ager gets 18 months for 7-Eleven shooting involvement

by April E. Fulton
Staff Writer

A teen-ager charged in the Dec. 22 shooting death of a clerk at a 7-Eleven store in Montgomery Village was sentenced Friday to 18 months in jail and three years probation.

Circuit Court Judge J. James McKenna sentenced Eugene Anthony Hale, 18, of Rockville, to five years in prison with all but 18 months suspended and three years of supervised probation, and recommended he be included in the county's pre-release training program.

According to court documents, Hale was asleep in the car at the time of the shooting of clerk Haresh Doshi. Hale was unaware of the incident until later that day, but declined to call police.

Records show Hale was charged as an accessory after the fact of murder and with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The state dropped the motor vehicle charge May 18 in favor of a guilty plea to the accessory charge as part of a plea bargain arrangement.

At the sentencing, Hale's attorney, Steven Van Grack, painted a picture of a boy who had a difficult life.

Van Grack said Hale moved frequently with his parents be-

cause his father did not get along with people. Hale often stayed with friends or in cars overnight, he said.

Van Grack asked the judge to recommend the pre-release training program for Hale while in prison. The lawyer said it would be a good way to help him "start over and not be a burden to the state of Maryland" after his release.

The program offers job training and assistance to qualified prisoners who the state feels have a chance to be rehabilitated.

Margaret Schweitzer, the assistant state's attorney prosecuting the case, told McKenna that Hale was guilty of "not extracting himself from this horrible crime."

She said he chose to stay with the alleged triggerman, Patrick Keith Holmes, 20, also of Rockville, and help him get rid of the weapon "rather than go his own way."

"He knew exactly what he was doing. That's why we're punishing him here," Schweitzer told the judge.

She recommended the maximum sentence allowed under the plea bargain arrangement — 18 months in the county detention center.

Hale told McKenna that he was sorry for what he did and that he would like another



Anthony Hale

chance.

"I know you've had a lousy life, kid, but I know plenty of people who have risen above it," McKenna told Hale.

"You've got to learn that there are certain ways society expects us to get along with each other. That night was an example of outrageous and unacceptable behavior," he said during sentencing.

McKenna advised Hale to accept his sentence, look forward in life, make something of himself, and to "stop hanging around with that crowd," referring to the others involved in the case.