

Police question brother in girl's shooting

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By Aisha I. Jefferson

While a 14-year-old McDonough girl who was shot in the head fought for her life Tuesday at Grady Memorial Hospital, police questioned her 15-year-old brother, trying to determine if he shot her accidentally.

"He was playing with the gun, and it went off," said Henry County Police Sgt. Bear Thomas. "We haven't figured out if it was an accident yet; we want to make sure this wasn't anything intentional."

The girl was in "very critical" condition and on life support at Grady Tuesday evening, according to her mother.

Thomas said the boy told them he "located" the .38-caliber revolver and thought it was unloaded. Police are investigating the gun's origin.

The teens' mother said she does not know who the gun belongs to.

Thomas said the boy called 911 around 8:45 a.m. Tuesday after shooting his sister and reported the incident. Paramedics arrived to find the girl laying in the hallway in front of her brother's bedroom, he said.

According to police, the siblings were alone at their home in the St. Andrew's subdivision during the time of the shooting, and there weren't any other witnesses. Thomas said a couple of neighbors have said the siblings had a history of arguing.

The teens' mother said her son is very remorseful about the shooting.

"He can't talk right now, he's hurt," she said. "It was an accident, he said it was an accident."

The boy was released Tuesday afternoon after hours of questioning, she said.

Henry Singleton, 16, said he was shocked when he learned the news about his neighbor and Union Grove High School classmate being shot.

"I couldn't believe it, I was like... my friend," Singleton said.

Singleton and another neighbor, Gabrielle Porter, said the children's mother seemed to be in shock when she discovered what happened.

"She looked like she was terrified," Singleton said.

Neither Porter or Singleton heard the shooting.

"It's all pretty shocking," Porter said. "It's a very quiet neighborhood."