



**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Woman Arrested in Connection with the Death of Her Three-Year-Old Granddaughter**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Maria De Jesus Lopez (DOB 2/13/74), of Oxnard, has been charged with one count of conspiracy to destroy and conceal evidence regarding the death of her three-year-old granddaughter Kimberly Chavez Lopez in June 2015. Investigation by the Oxnard Police Department determined that Maria Lopez was aware of Kimberly's death and took actions to conceal it from authorities.

Maria Lopez's daughter Mayra Alejandra Chavez (DOB 10/4/91), of Oxnard, who is charged with second-degree murder and willful harm or injury to a child for her role in Kimberly's death, is currently awaiting trial. Kimberly's father Omar Misael Lopez (DOB 2/5/85), of Oxnard, previously pled guilty to one count of felony child endangerment and one count of perjury in exchange for providing truthful testimony against Chavez.

If convicted, Maria Lopez could face a maximum sentence of three years in custody. Arraignment for Lopez is set July 24, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Her bail is currently set at \$200,000.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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