



**GREGORY D. TOTTE**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Mother Found Guilty of Murder of Three-Year-Old Daughter**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Mayra Alejandra Chavez (DOB 10/4/1991), of Oxnard, has been found guilty of three felonies including second-degree murder for the killing of her three-year-old daughter, Kimberly Chavez Lopez, which occurred in June 2015. Chavez was also found guilty of assault resulting in death of a child and torture.

Chavez lost custody of Kimberly due to the baby testing positive for methamphetamine and marijuana at birth. Kimberly was placed into foster care for approximately nine months. Kimberly was returned to her custody after Chavez took drug and parenting classes. Once Chavez regained custody of Kimberly, she began to abuse her. Kimberly was placed into foster care a second time because of the abuse and Chavez again made the necessary efforts to regain custody. Once Kimberly was returned the second time, Chavez continued to torture and mistreat Kimberly. This abuse ultimately led to Kimberly's tragic death. Kimberly's body was never recovered. Omar Lopez, Kimberly's father, testified that he and Chavez disposed of Kimberly's body in Tijuana, Mexico. Law enforcement agencies investigating Kimberly's death included the Oxnard Police Department and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

Chavez will remain in custody at the Ventura County jail pending sentencing. Sentencing is scheduled March 14, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 26 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Chavez faces 47 years to life in state prison.

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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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