



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
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NEWS RELEASE

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Grandmother Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Conceal Evidence of Granddaughter's Death

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Maria De Jesus Lopez (DOB 2/13/74), of Oxnard, pled guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to destroy and conceal evidence. Lopez conspired with her daughter, Mayra Alejandra Chavez (DOB 10/4/91), and Omar Misael Lopez (DOB 2/5/85), to conceal the death of Lopez's 3-year-old granddaughter, Kimberly Lopez, from authorities.

Kimberly's death was the result of child abuse inflicted on her by her mother Mayra Chavez in June 2015. Upon learning of Kimberly's death, Lopez assisted Chavez and Omar Lopez in covering up Kimberly's death by lending the couple her car and providing them money so they could transport and ultimately destroy Kimberly's remains in Tijuana, Mexico. Kimberly's body was never recovered. Over the next 15 months, Lopez also assisted Chavez and Omar Lopez in concealing Kimberly's death from authorities. Chavez was convicted of Kimberly's murder in December 2018. Omar Lopez had earlier pled guilty to felony child endangerment in exchange for truthful testimony in Chavez's trial.

Sentencing for Lopez is scheduled April 23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Lopez faces a maximum possible sentence of 180 days in the Ventura County jail and three years of formal probation. Lopez is currently out of custody on \$200,000 bail.

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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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