



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Grandmother Sentenced to 180 Days Jail for Involvement in Granddaughter's Death

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Maria De Jesus Lopez (DOB 2/13/74), of Oxnard, was sentenced to 180 days jail and 36 months formal probation by Judge Bruce Young. Ms. Lopez pled guilty last month to one felony count of conspiracy to destroy and conceal evidence. Ms. Lopez conspired with her daughter, Mayra Alejandra Chavez, and Omar Misael Lopez to conceal the death of Ms. Lopez's 3-year-old granddaughter, Kimberly Lopez.

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, Ms. Lopez assisted Chavez and Omar Lopez in covering up Kimberly's death by lending the couple her car and providing them with money so they could dispose of 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 previously pled guilty to felony child endangerment in exchange for truthful testimony in Chavez's trial.

As part of her probation, Maria De Jesus Lopez was ordered to have no contact with Mayra Chavez and is not allowed to associate with any children under the age of 18 unless in the presence of a responsible adult who has been approved by the probation officer.

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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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