



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
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NEWS RELEASE

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Mother Sentenced to Life for 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, was sentenced to 37 years to life in prison by Judge Derek Malan. In December 2018, Chavez was found guilty of second-degree murder, assault resulting in death of a child, and torture, for the killing of her three-year-old daughter, Kimberly Chavez Lopez, which occurred in June 2015. Earlier this month, Chavez pled guilty to three counts of perjury related to false court testimony she gave in 2016 when authorities were searching for Kimberly and were unaware that Chavez had murdered the child.

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. Omar Lopez is expected to be sentenced to 14 years prison later this year.

Law enforcement agencies investigating Kimberly's death included the Oxnard Police Department, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security.

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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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