



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

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Ventura Woman Pleads Guilty to Killing 22-month-old Son**

*VENTURA, California* –District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that on November 19, 2020, Jessica Navarro (DOB 6/22/89), of Ventura, pled guilty to second-degree murder for killing her 22-month-old son, Guillermo Cortez.

On the morning of June 29, 2016, first responders were dispatched to Navarro’s residence for a call of a non-responsive child. Upon their arrival, medical personnel found Guillermo lying lifeless in the master bedroom. Navarro initially claimed he had fallen from his crib. Guillermo was transported to Ventura County Medical Center and ultimately succumbed to his injuries. As part of the investigation, an autopsy was conducted which revealed Guillermo had suffered severe internal blunt force injuries. Investigators from the Ventura Police Department questioned Navarro regarding Guillermo’s injuries. Navarro admitted to repeatedly striking Guillermo earlier that morning because he was crying incessantly.

Navarro will be sentenced on February 4, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 48 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Navarro faces a sentence of 15 years to life in state prison. She is being held in the Ventura County jail without bail pending the sentencing hearing.

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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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