



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Parents Charged in Death of Baby Who Ingested Fentanyl

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that George James Salas (DOB 12/03/96), of Simi Valley, has been charged with the second-degree murder of his 11-month-old child Ariya, who died from fentanyl intoxication. Salas is also charged with one count of child abuse resulting in death, and additional drug related charges. Salas faces several special allegations and aggravating factors, including the crime involving great violence, the victim being particularly vulnerable and a strike prior.

Karina Lucia Yanes (DOB 02/01/96), of Simi Valley, is also charged in Ariya's death. Yanes faces one felony count of child abuse with the special allegations of resulting in death of the child, the crime involving great violence and the victim being particularly vulnerable.

"An 11-month-old child lost her life because she was allegedly exposed to a lethal amount of this synthetic drug," District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. "We have a duty as prosecutors to hold her parents responsible for this completely avoidable and tragic death."

On December 6, 2025, 11-month-old Ariya Salas was left in the care of Ariya's father, George Salas, a known fentanyl addict. Yanes had left for work, leaving Ariya in Salas' care at the family's home in Simi Valley. Salas was alone with Ariya when she became unresponsive. Emergency personnel were called and Ariya was transported to a hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. An investigation determined Ariya died from fentanyl intoxication.

At the home, Simi Valley Police Department Detectives recovered fentanyl and drug paraphernalia from the room where Ariya was found.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Audry Nafziger and Deputy District Attorney Devin Mirchi, members of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Narcotics Unit, are prosecuting the case.

“Fentanyl is one of the deadliest drugs in America, and an 11-month-old is completely helpless against it,” Ms. Nafziger said.

Salas and Yanes made their first court appearances on September 28, 2026, where their arraignments were continued to October 26, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Salas remains in custody with bail set at \$1,040,000. Yanes also remains in custody with her bail set at \$50,000. A bail review hearing for Salas is scheduled for September 30, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13.

Case: 2026027528

Court number: 26CF101743

Defendant information:

George James Salas (DOB 12/03/96)
Simi Valley

Charges:

- PC 187(a) – Second-degree murder
- PC 273a(a) – Child abuse
- HS 11350(b) – Possession of controlled substance
- HS 11377(a) – Possession of controlled substance
- HS 11364 – Possession of smoking device

Special allegations:

- PC 667S2 – Strike prior
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony
- PC 667(a)(1) – Serious felony
- PC 12022.95 – Willful harm or injury resulting in death
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant's prior convictions
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct

Defendant information:

Karin Lucia Yanes (DOB 02/01/96)
Simi Valley

Charges:

- PC 273a(a) – Child abuse

Special allegations:

- PC 12022.95 – Willful harm or injury resulting in death
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable