

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Leavenworth man convicted in fentanyl-related death of 3-year-old child

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A 35-year-old Leavenworth man has been convicted in connection with the fentanyl-related death of a 3-year-old boy.

Kenneth C. Hedgecock pleaded no contest Monday, March 2, 2026, to one count of involuntary manslaughter and one count of aggravated endangering a child. He was found guilty on both counts.

Hedgecock, along with 40-year-old Tara A. Huerta and 30-year-old Briana R.M. Davis, was charged in connection with the March 26, 2025, death of Davis' 3-year-old child, who was in the care of Hedgecock and Huerta at the time of the incident.

All three defendants have now been convicted in the case.

According to court documents, a Leavenworth Police Department officer was dispatched at approximately 4:32 a.m. to an apartment near Limit Street and Martin Luther King Drive for a first-aid assist. Upon arrival, officers observed the 3-year-old child lying on the living room floor while emergency responders performed chest compressions. The child was transported to an area hospital in Leavenworth by paramedics. While at the hospital, the victim was pronounced dead.

During the investigation, officers contacted Huerta and Hedgecock. Huerta told police that Davis had been at the apartment on March 25 and left the victim in their care. The child had been sleeping on the couch.

Huerta and Hedgecock admitted to using drugs while the child was inside the apartment. They told investigators that around midnight on March 26, they noticed the child was breathing differently and appeared to be having a bad dream. Hedgecock yelled the child's name, and the child opened his eyes and looked at him before going back to sleep.

Hedgecock later told investigators that at approximately 4:20 a.m., he woke to check on the child and realized something was wrong. He woke Huerta, and the two observed that the child was no longer breathing. They then called 911.

Investigators collected multiple items of evidence from the apartment, which were submitted to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation crime laboratory for testing. Swabs taken from the couch where the child had been sleeping tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl. A small baggie with residue found under the couch tested positive for methamphetamine, cocaine and

fentanyl. A corner tie recovered from a couch cup holder tested positive for methamphetamine.

An autopsy determined the victim's cause of death was acute fentanyl toxicity.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "Three people have now been convicted for the loss of this child - a preventable tragedy. This case is a heartbreaking reminder that fentanyl is not just a danger to those who use it - it endangers everyone around it, especially children. When adults choose to keep such a deadly substance in a home where a child is present, they will be held responsible."

Hedgecock is scheduled for sentencing at 11 a.m. April 1, 2026.

Davis is scheduled for sentencing at 11 a.m. March 11, 2026, on charges of abandonment of a child, aggravated battery, and endangering a child.

Huerta is scheduled for sentencing at 1 p.m. on March 27, 2026, on convictions of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated endangering a child.