

## **Atchison woman convicted on charges related to the 2023 death and endangerment of a one-year-old child**

OFFICE OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY

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**LEAVENWORTH, Kan.** — A 24-year-old Atchison woman has been found guilty on charges related to the 2023 death and endangerment of a one-year-old child in her care.

Liberti N. Figueroa was convicted Aug. 12 of two counts of aggravated endangering of a child following a two-day jury trial in Leavenworth County District Court. The jury acquitted her of involuntary manslaughter.

The charges stem from two incidents involving the same child:

**Sept. 20, 2023:** Evidence showed that Figueroa was in an upstairs bedroom of her apartment in the city of Leavenworth when the victim suffered burns. Figueroa told investigators the burns occurred when an ashtray tipped over and fell onto the victim, who was lying on a bed. On Feb. 19, 2025, she was charged with **aggravated endangering of a child** in connection with this incident – a charge she was convicted of on Aug. 12.

**Oct. 18, 2023:** Emergency crews were dispatched to the same apartment for a report of a child not breathing. The child was taken to a Leavenworth hospital, where they were pronounced dead at about 6:35 p.m.

Investigators learned that Figueroa had left for work around 9 a.m., leaving her boyfriend of a couple of months to supervise the victim and a 4-year-old child. Figueroa would note that her boyfriend wasn't a very responsible person and that the victim was sick and sleeping when she left. Figueroa returned to the apartment about 1 p.m., but didn't check on the victim until 5 p.m. She told police that after coming home, she and some friends smoked marijuana inside the apartment. Evidence would also indicate that she left the home at one point to buy marijuana and returned.

An autopsy determined that the child died from head trauma that caused internal bleeding. While Figueroa was not accused of directly inflicting the injuries, prosecutors argued that she acted recklessly by causing or permitting a child under the age of 18 to be placed in a situation where the child's life, body, or health was endangered—ultimately resulting in the child's death. This alleged recklessness led prosecutors to also charge her with both **aggravated endangering a child** and **involuntary manslaughter** in a complaint filed on February 19, 2025. The jury ultimately convicted her of only the aggravated endangering a child.

Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 19, 2025, at 1 p.m. in Leavenworth County District Court.

“It’s truly heartbreaking to lose a child that is this young,” Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said. “We are deeply grateful to the first responders, medical professionals, and law enforcement officers whose dedication and hard work made this case possible. Our justice system is built on the principle that a jury of our peers considers the facts and applies the law fairly. We are grateful for this process and the role we play in it.”