

PRESS RELEASE:

Feb. 18, 2026

Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

<https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthProsecutor>

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

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A 40-year-old Leavenworth woman has been convicted in connection with the death of a 3-year-old child who died of acute fentanyl toxicity.

Tara Ann Huerta pleaded guilty Feb. 18 in Leavenworth County District Court to one count of involuntary manslaughter and one count of aggravated endangering a child.

According to court documents, the charges stem from a March 25, 2025, incident involving the death of a 3-year-old child who was in the care of Huerta.

Documents allege Huerta unlawfully, feloniously, and recklessly killed a human being and unlawfully, feloniously, and recklessly caused or permitted a child to be placed in a situation in which the child's life, body, or health was endangered.

Earlier this year, on Jan. 21, 2026, Briana Rene Michelle Davis, 30, the child's mother, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of abandonment of a child, aggravated battery, and endangering a child. Court records showed Davis left the child in the care of Huerta, knowing the child could be harmed.

Huerta's significant other at the time is facing charges related to this incident. He is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "Fentanyl can be fatal. Even a small amount can kill, especially a child. Those entrusted with a child's care have the utmost responsibility to protect them. When that responsibility is ignored, the consequences can be devastating."

Huerta is scheduled to be sentenced at 1 p.m. on March 27, 2026, in Leavenworth County District Court.