



Maricopa County Attorney

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phoenix Man Accused of First Degree Murder in Death of Niece *Criminal complaint filed*

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that a criminal complaint has been filed against Leonard Orta Jr. (DOB 6/17/62) for the death of his five-year-old niece, Kaiya.

According to the probable cause statement filed by Phoenix Police, officers were called to the suspect's home on February 17, 2010 after receiving word of a family fight. Police entered the apartment and found the body of the child in a bedroom. The probable cause statement says Orta Jr. was Kaiya's caregiver since July of 2009. Orta Jr. was arrested by police.

On February 22, 2010 a criminal complaint was filed alleging the following charges:

- First Degree Murder, a class 1 felony, a dangerous crime against children and a domestic violence offense
- Child Abuse, a class 2 felony, a dangerous crime against children and a domestic violence offense
- Abandonment or Concealment of a Dead Body, a class 5 felony

Deputy County Attorney Frankie Grimsman is prosecuting the case.

Thomas stated, "We appreciate the efforts of Phoenix Police in making this arrest and our office will work to make certain this case is properly prosecuted."

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