



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE  
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: June 13, 2017  
Complaint Number: 17-228450  
Type of Incident: Death Investigation  
Reporting Deputy: J. Russo  
Supervisor Approval: Captain Ivie

**ORIGINAL – JUNE 13, 2017**

On June 13, 2017 at 1045 hours deputies from the Kent County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to 277 N. Green Meadow St. SE in Gaines Township regarding a 4 year old child that was reported to not be breathing. Deputies responded along with Emergency personnel to the scene. A pulse was restored and the child was transported to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids where he later died. The death currently remains under investigation.

**UPDATE – JUNE 13, 2017**

A 25 year old male from Gaines Township has been arrested and is currently lodged at the Kent County Correctional Facility on murder charges related to this investigation.

**UPDATE – JUNE 14, 2017**

On June 14, 2017, an autopsy was conducted on the victim, Giovanni Meijas, 4 years old. The Kent County Medical Examiner's Officer determine the manner of death was homicide and the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the abdomen. There were also several older injuries in various stages of healing.

The only suspect is still lodged at the Kent County Correctional Facility pending review by the Kent County Prosecutor's Office. The name of the suspect is not being released by our department prior to any official charges. If charges are authorized, the arraignment will most likely occur on Thursday, June 15, 2017.

**UPDATE – JUNE 15, 2017**

On June 15, 2017, The Kent County Prosecutor's Office issued charges on Elis Nelson Ortiz-Nieves for Homicide - Felony Murder, First Degree Child Abuse, and being a Habitual Offender (4th Offense).

Ortiz-Nieves was in a dating relationship with the victim's mother and had been living at the residence for approximately six (6) months. When the victim's mother left for work early in the

morning, Ortiz-Nieves was the only adult left to watch seven (7) children, all under the age of 11 years old. Two of the children were his biological children. Four of the children were the biological children of his girlfriend (including the victim). One child is a godchild or distant relative of Ortiz-Nieves.

Ortiz-Nieves' biological children and his girlfriend's biological children were removed from the residence pending a Children's Protective Services Investigation. Any additional evidence will not be released outside the court process.

Ortiz-Nieves will be arraigned this afternoon in the 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court.

Correction: We found several spellings of the victim's last name. After the last update, we believe the correct spelling is **Mejias**.