

## Child Fatality Summary

**Child's Name:** Masiela Decaro-Pagan

**County:** Osceola

**Date of Birth:** 08/09/2017

**Date of Death:** 01/11/2022

**Report Number:** 2022-010343

### Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Masiela Decaro-Pagan	4 years old	Child Victim
Jacinda Decaro	25 years old	Mother

### Circumstances Surrounding Death

On January 11, 2022, the 4-year-old passed away after being found unresponsive along with her mother in their hotel room at a resort in Kissimmee.

According to law enforcement, the following information was provided.

The mother and child victim resided with the maternal grandmother in Orange County. The grandmother reported the mother and child left the family's home on January 8, 2022, between 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It was not uncommon for the mother and child to go away for a weekend.

On the evening of January 8, 2022, the mother had a FaceTime conversation with a friend that lasted approximately five to six hours. During that conversation, the mother discussed feeling down in her life and how she wished she could go to sleep and just not wake up. The friend advised the mother to talk to someone and the mother said she did not want to talk to a therapist because they would be required to report what she said to child protective services and then she would lose her child. The friend reported during this conversation the child victim was observed in the background jumping around and appeared happy.

The last known communication from the mother was at approximately 2:00 a.m. on January 10, 2022, when the mother sent a 25-minute voice message to her ex-paramour. In this message the mother stated how she felt depressed that their relationship did not work out and how she wished they could have figured things out.

On January 10, 2022, the mother was supposed to report to work; however, when she did not show up (the mother and grandmother work together at an optometrist's office in Longwood) the maternal grandmother became concerned and began reaching out to friends to see if they knew the mother and child's location. The maternal grandmother

then requested the resort complete a well-being check. When hotel security could not gain access to the hotel room, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office was contacted. 911 was called at 11:21 p.m.

Deputies made entrance to the hotel room where they noted both the mother and child unresponsive on the bed. Masiela Decaro-Pagan was pronounced deceased on scene at 11:22 p.m. The mother was found to have a slight pulse and was transported to Advent Health Celebration in critical condition.

Several prescription medications under the mother's name were found along with bottles of Tylenol PM and Benadryl. A note was found on top of the mother's cell phone that read, "Contact Michelle Decaro. I'm sorry." The mother had no mental health diagnoses. The medication prescribed for the mother was to assist with treating pain the mother had associated with an accident she had suffered from several months prior to the incident.

As of January 20, 2022, the detective advised the mother was expected to make a full recovery.

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Masiela Decaro-Pagan (22-I-003267). On March 9, 2022, the mother was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder.

After the mother's arrest, the child protective investigator visited the mother at jail, where she appeared confused about what had happened, and refused to answer any questions. The mother declined to take a drug screen.

As of December 14, 2022, the mother remained incompetent to proceed with criminal proceedings. The mother remained in the state hospital, [REDACTED]

On January 11, 2022, District 9 Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., completed an autopsy of Masiela Decaro-Pagan. ME# 22-25-00079.

Cause of Death: Diphenhydramine Toxicity (Benadryl)

Manner of Death: Homicide

## Autopsy Findings

- I. Diphenhydramine toxicity
  - a. 4-year-old child found unresponsive in secured hotel room
  - b. Postmortem peripheral blood with 1.890 mg/l of diphenhydramine
  - c. Postmortem gastric content containing 4.420 mg/l of diphenhydramine

*Conclusion: In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body, and review of the available medical records, histology and toxicology results, it is my opinion that Masiela Decaro-Pagan, a 4-year-old girl, died as the result of diphenhydramine toxicity. The manner of death is classified as homicide.*

On January 26, 2028, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Substance Misuse, and Inadequate Supervision as to Masiela Decaro-Pagan.

### **Other Children in the Family:**

There are no other children, and the mother is receiving therapy in jail.

### **Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family**

The family did not have any open services.

### **Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family**

The family does not have any prior abuse report history.



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Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist  
Kirby Morgan

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1/30/23

Date



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Central Region Director of Child Protection  
Stephanie Weis

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01/30/2023

Date