

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Victor Araujo-Lopez

County: Seminole

Date of Birth: 01/03/2007

Date of Death: 06/14/2022

Report Number: 2022-182727

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Victor Araujo-Lopez	15 years old	Child Victim
Zuleika Lopez-Avila	43 years old	Mother
Mileida Avila de Lopez	76 years old	Maternal Grandmother
Carlos Soto	51 years old	Stepfather

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On June 14, 2022, the 15-year-old, mother, and maternal grandmother were shot to death by the stepfather in a murder/suicide.

During the investigation, the following information was gathered.

On June 14, 2022, the Casselberry Police Department was notified of a shooting that occurred in their jurisdiction at an apartment in Maitland. 911 was called by a victim of the incident. It is believed that the stepfather shot and killed the mother, the maternal grandmother, and the child. As responding officers entered the home two shots were heard. The stepfather was found in the residence with a gunshot wound to the head. The mother and maternal grandmother were found deceased by Law Enforcement upon entering the home. The stepfather was taken to a local hospital and declared deceased at 8:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Services transported the child to Altamonte Hospital.

On June 14, 2022, Victor Araujo-Lopez was pronounced deceased at 8:30 a.m.

The mother and father were having marital issues and the mother was making plans to meet with an attorney on June 16, 2022, to discuss filing for divorce. Per extended relatives, there was a history of unreported domestic violence between them. On June 9, 2022, contact was made with Law Enforcement due to concerns of the father having purchased a gun and the mother not feeling safe with it in the residence. It was determined that there were no threats or acts of violence at that time, so no Law Enforcement action was taken.

The Casselberry Police Department investigated the death of Victor Araujo-Lopez (2022-0001017). Their case is classified as a murder/suicide.

The Death Certificate was received on August 12, 2022, and indicated District 5 & 24 Medical Examiner Tera Jones, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Victor Araujo-Lopez on June 23, 2022. ME# 22-24-01457.

Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of Chest

Manner of Death: Homicide

The Death Certificate was received on August 12, 2022, and indicated District 5 & 24 Medical Examiner Tera Jones, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Zuleika Lopez-Avila June 23, 2022. ME# 22-24-01461.

Cause of Death: Multiple Gunshot Wounds

Manner of Death: Homicide

The Death Certificate was received on August 12, 2022, and indicated District 5 & 24 Medical Examiner Tera Jones, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Mileida Avila de Lopez on June 23, 2022. ME# 22-24-01460..

Cause of Death: Multiple Gunshot Wounds

Manner of Death: Homicide

The Death Certificate was received on August 12, 2022, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Carlos Soto on July 11, 2022. ME# 22-09-01181.

Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of Head

Manner of Death: Suicide

On August 12, 2022, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Physical Injury and Household Violence Threatens child as to Victor Araujo-Lopez, with Carlos Soto as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

Grief counseling information was provided to the extended family.

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.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

9/9/22

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

09/09/2022

Date