

North Carolina Public Records Act Request

The following information was received in response to a public records request submitted under the North Carolina Public Records Law (G.S. §132-1) by Lives Cut Short. Records were provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on January 27, 2025.

CANDID ID: NC_22_1776

Decedent's Name: Unnamed child

Victim Age: 1 year

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: White

Date of Death: 09/05/2022

Death County: Forsyth

Cause of Death: Blunt force injuries

Manner of Death: Homicide

Preliminary Circumstances: On August 31, 2022, Ramseur police responded to Randolph Health following reports of a 14-month-old boy with severe injuries suspected to be the result of child abuse. The child was transferred to Brenner's Children's Hospital, where he underwent surgery, but later died on September 5, 2022. Following an investigation involving multiple agencies, authorities charged Joel Valdez Beltran with first-degree murder. He was taken into custody by the Randolph County Sheriff's Office and is currently being held without bond. The investigation remains ongoing and may result in additional charges.