

## Florida Department of Children and Families Child Fatality Summary C-17

**Child's Name:** Melody Duran

**County:** Broward

**Date of Birth:** 11/23/2021

**Date of Death:** 05/28/2024

**Family Composition Chart**

**Report Number:** 2024-188473

| Name           | Age at Time of the Incident | Relationship with Deceased Child |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Melody Duran   | 2 years                     | Decedent                         |
| Mona Clarke    | 35 years                    | Mother                           |
| Jeronimo Duran | 33 years                    | Father                           |

### Circumstances Surrounding Death

On 05/28/2024, the department received a report stating that a 2-year-old child was unresponsive while in her father's care.

The mother and father have 70/30 split visitation, with the child staying with the mother four days a week and the father for three days a week. On the day of the incident, the mother asked that the father keep the child for an additional day to allow the mother to work. The father had recently lost his job and therefore the father wasn't willing or able to contribute to daycare expenses. The mother felt that something was off on the morning of the incident when the father came to pick up the child from the mother's home; however, the mother couldn't articulate what was wrong. The mother explained that she and the father had been in an "on again off again" relationship for the past nine years. The father is stated to have a history of being verbally abusive and has a history of mental health.

In the moments leading up to the incident, the father and child were at the paternal grandmother and step-grandfathers' home where the father resides. One of the grandparents walked into the home to find the father hovered over the child with blood all over the floor. It was later learned that the father had slit the child's throat with a kitchen knife.

Resuscitative efforts were attempted without success, the child was pronounced deceased at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

The Broward County Medical Examiner's office completed an autopsy. The cause of death was determined to be "Incised Wound of Neck" and the manner of death is "Homicide."

The Pembroke Pines Police Department has jurisdiction over this case. The father was arrested for charges of Aggravated Child Abuse and Murder in the First Degree. The case remained open with the State Attorney's Office at the time the DCF investigation was closed.

Based on the information indicated above, the report was closed with "Verified" findings of the death maltreatment, internal injuries and inadequate supervision.

### Other Children in the Family

There are no other children in the father's home.

### Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The toddler has no history with the Department. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tausha Schreiber  
Tausha Schreiber, Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

09/15/2025

**Date**

[Signature]  
Denise Foster, Region Program Manager

09/15/2025

**Date**