

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Convicted of Killing Toddler, Abusing Children  
in Domestic Violence Case**

A 24-year-old man pleaded guilty yesterday to physically abusing his girlfriend and her two young children, leading to a toddler's death, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At Monday's court appearance, Samuel Aguilar pleaded guilty to seven felony counts in case NA100821: one count each of voluntary manslaughter and injuring a girlfriend; two counts of child abuse; and three counts of dissuading a witness from reporting a crime.

Aguilar is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 21 in Department S21 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. He is expected to be sentenced to 32 years and four months in state prison.

Aguilar's girlfriend and the children's mother, Jessica Rey Cereceres, 26, pleaded no contest to two felony counts of child abuse in the same case. She was sentenced on May 4 to five years and four months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney L. Christmas Brookens of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said Aguilar and Cereceres lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend with the female defendant's two small children. At the time of the incident, the two boys were 1 and 2 years old.

On Aug. 10, 2014, the 2-year-old was brought to the hospital for treatment of body trauma and was later pronounced dead, the prosecutor said. Law enforcement began an investigation into the child's death and discovered that the boy's 1-year-old brother also had injuries to his body, according to the prosecutor.

After a year-long examination of reports and evidence, it was determined that the 2-year-old child died from blunt force trauma to the stomach and head, according to the prosecutor. Additionally, it was concluded that the injuries occurred while the toddler was in Aguilar's care, and following a physical argument with Cereceres, the prosecutor said.

Furthermore, witnesses came forward and said that they saw Aguilar abusing the two boys in front of Cereceres and she would do nothing, the prosecutor added.

This domestic violence case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

### **[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.