

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
HALL OF JUSTICE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

FELONY COMPLAINT  
CASE SUMMARY

vs.

DA NO: 220508401

CEN

22012512 EGQ549 RAH HELD 05/13/2022

22012511 EGQ547 RTH HELD 05/13/2022

RENE AARON HERNANDEZSANTOS (06/29/2002),  
3122 SPRINGFILED WY SAN JOSE CA 95111

RENE TRIGUEROS HERNANDEZ (01/15/1963),  
aka RENE A HERNANDEZTRIGUEROS,  
aka RENE ANTONIO HERNANDEZ TRIGUEROS,  
3122 SPRINGFIELD WY SAN JOSE CA 95111

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Defendant(s).

C A S E S U M M A R Y

| Count | Charge     | Charge Range | Defendant  |
|-------|------------|--------------|--|
| 1     | PC273ab(a) | 25-life      | Rene Aaron Hernandezsantos<br>Rene Trigueros Hernandez |

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FELONY COMPLAINT

DA NO: 220508401

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The undersigned is informed and believes that:

**COUNT 1**

On or about September 24, 2021, in the County of Santa Clara, State of California, the crime of ASSAULT ON A CHILD WITH FORCE LIKELY TO PRODUCE GBI RESULTING IN DEATH, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 273ab(a), a Felony, was committed by RENE AARON HERNANDEZSANTOS AND RENE TRIGUEROS HERNANDEZ who did while having the care and custody of a child under eight (8) years of age, Arely Doe, three years old, assault Arely Doe by means of force that to a reasonable person would be likely to produce great bodily injury, which resulted in the child's death.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**PACE**

### **EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1109 NOTICE**

Notice is given that the People will offer evidence of other acts of domestic violence within the meaning of Evidence Code section 1109 contained within the affidavit of probable cause and the attached reports. In compliance with Penal Code section 1054.7, the People will disclose any additional evidence that may become known or acquired during the pendency of this action.

Any defendant, including a juvenile, who is convicted of and pleads guilty and no contest to any felony offense, including any attempt to commit the offense, charged in this complaint or information is required to provide buccal swab samples, right thumbprints and a full palm print impression of each hand, and any blood specimens or other biological samples required pursuant to the DNA and Forensic Identification Database and Data Bank Act of 1998 and Penal Code section 296, et seq.

Further, attached and incorporated by reference are official reports and documents of a law enforcement agency which the complainant believes establish probable cause for the pretrial restraint of defendant RENE AARON HERNANDEZSANTOS, for the above-listed crimes.

Further, attached and incorporated by reference are official reports and documents of a law enforcement agency which the complainant believes establish probable cause for the pretrial restraint of defendant RENE TRIGUEROS HERNANDEZ, for the above-listed crimes.

Complainant therefore requests that the defendant(s) be dealt with according to law.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Executed on May 13, 2022, in SANTA CLARA County, California.

DocuSigned by:  
*Juan Vallejo*  
EAA158AA6D2B406...

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Juan vallejo #3810  
( Vallejo 3810)  
SJPD (408) 277-5283 212670957 H  
WISE/ D556/ FELONY/ AAM

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Rene Trigueros Hernandez DOB: 01/15/1963 and Rene Aaron Hernandezsantos DOB:  
06/29/2002

San Jose Police Case #21-267-0957

Sergeant JJ Vallejo #3810 / Detective Mike Harrington #4365

On September 24, 2021, at approximately 8:12 p.m., the San Jose Police Department was notified of a child death after the female reporting party stated her 3-year-old daughter, Victim Arely Doe, passed away. The location given by the reporting party was 1094 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which was a church. Fire/Medical personnel arrived on scene and located the victim on the floor of the church. They began lifesaving measures, and the victim was subsequently transported to Valley Medical Center, where she was pronounced deceased at 8:59 p.m.

The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner determined that Victim Arely Doe's death was a homicide; the cause of death was asphyxia due to suffocation, due to mechanical asphyxia and smothering. The victim had visible injuries, including extensive diffuse petechia changes across the face and neck with increased density around the eyes, multiple injuries to her tongue and mouth, multiple linear abrasions on the face and neck, patterned injuries on the neck with numerous bruises to the neck and clavicle region, marked cerebral edema, and multiple blunt force injuries across the chest, back, and extremities. The victim also had internal bleeding to the heart, aorta, pancreas, as well as small and large bowels.

Patrol officers located the victim's mother, Claudia Hernandez (herein referred to as Defendant 1), the victim's uncle, Rene Hernandez Jr. (herein referred to as Defendant 2), and the victim's maternal grandfather, Rene Hernandez Sr. (hereinafter referred to as Defendant 3) on scene.

All three parties were separated, and initial statements were taken. Patrol officers learned the Defendants believed the child was possessed by a demon and they were at the church praying for her. Defendant 1 provided a statement to a patrol officer that she attempted to stick her finger down the victim's throat and squeezed the victim's neck to induce vomiting. The victim fell asleep several times while Defendant 1 pushed down on the victim's throat with her hand. Defendant 1 described the victim sustaining bruising around her eyes, throat/neck, and chest.

Sgt. Vallejo and Detective Harrington interviewed Defendant 1 two separate times on September 25, 2021. The following is a synopsis of both interviews. Defendant 1 explained that on September 23, 2021, she began to believe the victim was possessed, because the victim would wake up and scream or cry periodically. Defendant 1 and Defendant 2 prayed for the victim while in the bedroom at Defendant 1's home in Mountain View. On September 24, 2021, at approximately 06:30 a.m., Defendant 1 and Defendant 2 drove the victim to the Church located at 1094 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St, in San Jose. Defendant 1 said she still believed the victim to be possessed. Defendant 1 stated she held the victim around her waist and neck to help her throw up, which she believed would help her get the spirit out. At times Defendant 1 attempted to open the victim's mouth with her hands. At some point, Defendant 3 arrived at the church to assist them in prayer. After that, Defendant 1, Defendant 2, and Defendant 3 were all holding victim attempting to cause her to vomit. One

individual was holding victim by the neck, while one held her around her abdomen, and the last held her around her legs. Defendant 1 described that the three parties would switch where they held the victim while trying to induce vomiting. Eventually, the victim vomited a clear/purple liquid. Defendant 1 believed the victim died sometime between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on September 24, 2021. Defendant 1 did not immediately contact 911. She dialed 911 one to two hours later at approximately 8:12 p.m. The defendants did not perform lifesaving measures to help the victim. The victim last ate on Thursday September 23, 2021 around 9:00 p.m. The victim was only provided about 6 oz of water from Thursday up until the time of her death.

Defendant 1 has been charged with a felony violation of Penal Code section 273ab(a) (Child Abuse Causing Death) in Docket C2201138.

Patrol officers also interviewed Defendant 2 when they arrived on scene on September 24, 2021. Defendant 2 told patrol officers he placed pressure on the victim's body, including her neck, during prayer.

Sgt. Vallejo and Det. Harrington interviewed Defendant 2 on two separate occasions on September 25, 2021. The following is a synopsis of both interviews. Defendant 2 stated that the night of September 23, 2021 he believed the victim was possessed, as she would cry and scream, and he believed she was in pain. At one point during the night, while the victim was standing, he placed his hands on the chest and back of the victim and applied pressure. In the early morning hours of September 24, 2021, he and Defendant 1 took the victim to the Church located at 1094 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St. While at Church, the victim was placed on the ground in front of the altar. In the afternoon, Defendant 3 arrived. All three continued praying. During prayer, the victim would be picked up and held by each of the three Defendants. At times, the victim would be held perpendicular to the ground (above the ground). One person would hold the victim's feet, one person would hold around the upper torso, and another person would hold the head area. Around 7:00 p.m., Defendant 2 knelt down beside the victim who was lying on the floor, and he placed one hand on the victim's chest and one hand on her back. He applied pressure to the victim and maintained pressure for approximately 10 minutes. He stated the victim was alive at the beginning of this and he closed his eyes to pray. Upon opening his eyes, he believed the victim had died. They continued to pray and did not perform any lifesaving measures for the victim.

During the second interview with Sgt. Vallejo and Det. Harrington, Defendant 2 re-enacted the moment in which he believed the victim had died. He was given a doll to use. He placed a hand on the doll's chest and one hand on the doll's back. He explained he applied pressure to both the chest and back (applying pressure in the direction as if to place his hands together). He held this pressure for approximately 10 minutes. He stated after he opened his eyes, he believed the victim had died. He also explained how the victim's body became limp while lying next to him.

In a subsequent interview, Defendant 2 substantially revised his previous statements. He stated he never placed his hands on the chest and back of the victim and applied pressure. He also explained that after they believed the victim had died, he attempted breath to breath (mouth to mouth) with the victim. Defendant 2. explained that he did not tell detectives this because he was scared and felt that detectives would not believe him.


Defendant 2 was last interviewed on May 11, 2022. In this statement he admitted that at one point he held Victim by the stomach, off the ground facing downward, while Defendant 1 held her by the neck. He stated this lasted for 25 minutes. Defendant 2 again admitted he knelt down beside the victim, who was lying on the floor, placed one hand on the victim's chest and one hand on her back, and applied pressure to the victim and maintained pressure for 10 minutes.

Defendant 3 was identified as the leader of the Church and stated he was a certified pastor. Defendant 3 was previously interviewed by patrol officers on September 24, 2021 and Sgt. Vallejo and Det. Harrington on September 25, 2021. During those interviews, he stated he was called by Defendant 1, and she asked him to come to the church on September 24, 2021. He arrived at 12:30pm. He stood over the victim and prayed over her while she cried. Defendant 3 remembered Victim vomiting, and said it occurred about 4:30pm. Defendant 3 said he moved victim's body to the south end of the church around 7:00pm, and she was not moving or breathing. He previously stated that he held Victim gently to comfort her twice during the time he was present at the church.

Defendant 3 was interviewed again by Sgt. Vallejo on May 11, 2022. During this interview he stated he arrived at the church around 12:10pm on September 24, 2021. Defendant 1 then told Defendant 3 the Victim was possessed by a demon. He described two "prayer sessions" they conducted on the Victim. The first prayer session lasted about an hour and a half, and he described holding victim tightly by her torso while Defendant 1 held her arms and Defendant 2 held her feet. He stated Victim was fighting back and this required him to hold her very tightly. Defendant 3 said Victim then fell asleep. During the second prayer session, Defendant 3 held Victim around her torso with her back against his stomach. Defendant 3 said the victim had unusual strength and attempted to bite his arms. Defendant 3 again described holding her tightly. Defendant 1 again restrained her by her head and Defendant 2 restrained her feet. Defendant 3 said this was when Victim vomited. Defendant 3 stated he then walked outside of the room to take a phone call and when he returned, the Victim was dead. Defendant 3 did not perform any life saving measures on the Victim.

Based on the above facts and circumstances, I believe that Defendant 2 and Defendant 3 are guilty of assault on a child under their custody and care that to a reasonable person would be likely to produce great bodily injury or death, resulting in a child's death, in violation of Penal Code section 273ab(a).

I declare that the forgoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California.

DocuSigned by:  
 #3810  
EAA150AA6D2B406...

Date: May 13, 2022

Sergeant JJ Vallejo

San Jose Police Department



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## News & Announcements



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## SJPD Arrest Three Suspects for Death of Three Year Old Child

**Post Date:** 05/13/2022 8:30 AM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

TYPE OF CRIME: Felony Child Abuse Causing Death      CASE NUMBER: 21-267-0957

LOCATION: 1000 Block of South 2nd Street, San José

VICTIM: Withheld

AGE: 3 Years

ADDRESS: San José resident

SUSPECT #1: Claudia Hernandez-Santos

AGE: 25 Years

ADDRESS: San José Resident

SUSPECT #2: Rene Hernandez-Santos

AGE: 19 Years

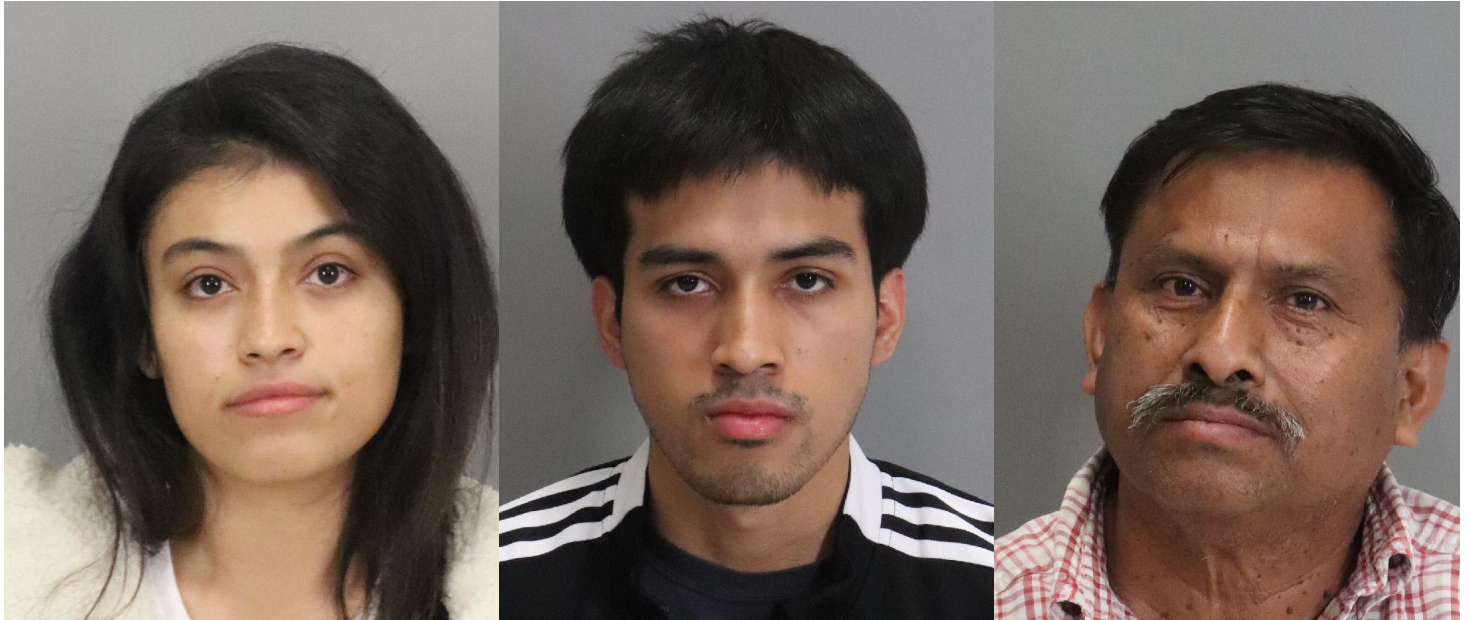
ADDRESS: San José Resident



SUSPECT #3: Rene Trigueros Hernandez

AGE: 59 Years

ADDRESS: San José Resident



Suspect Claudia Hernandez-Santos

**IN-CUSTODY**

Suspect Rene Hernandez-Santos

**IN-CUSTODY**

Suspect Rene Trigueros Hernandez

**IN-CUSTODY**

On September 24, 2021, at approximately 8:12 p.m., Officers responded to the 1000 block of South 2nd Street on the report of a child death of a 3-year-old. The location is a residence with a makeshift church located on the property. First responders arrived on scene and located the victim unresponsive on the floor of the church. They began life saving measures and the victim was subsequently transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

Detectives from the San José Police Department Homicide Unit began a collaborative investigation into the child's death with the Santa Clara County DA's Office. During the course of the investigation San José Police Department Homicide Detectives identified three suspects responsible for the death of the victim: the victim's mother, Claudia Hernandez-Santos, the victim's uncle Rene Aaron Hernandez-Santos, and the victim's grandfather Rene Trigueros Hernandez.

On January 31, 2022, suspect Claudia Hernandez-Santos, was arrested and formally charged with child abuse leading to the death of the victim.

On May 11, 2022, suspect Rene Aaron Hernandez-Santos, and suspect Rene Trigueros Hernandez were taken into custody by the San José Police Department's Special Operations Division, MERGE Unit, on charges of child abuse leading to the death of the victim.

Any persons with information about this case or similar incidents involving this suspect are urged to contact Detective Sergeant Vallejo #3810 or Detective Harrington #4365 of the Homicide Unit with any information about this incident at (408) 277-4166 or e-mail [3810@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:3810@sanjoseca.gov) or [4365@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:4365@sanjoseca.gov).

Submit crime tips and remain anonymous by using the P3TIPS mobile app, calling the tip line at (408) 947-STOP, or on [www.svcrimestoppers.org](http://www.svcrimestoppers.org). If the information you submit leads to an arrest, you are eligible for a cash reward from the Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers Program.

BY: Officer Steve Aponte #4390

AUTHORIZED BY: Lieutenant Miri #3860

DATE: 05/13/2022 TIME: 8:30 AM

DATE: 05/13/2022 TIME: 8:00 AM

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###



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PRESS RELEASE, According to Cal Govt. Code Sect 6254(f), San Jose Police Department, Media Relations Unit, 201 W. Mission Street, San Jose, CA 95110, Ph (408) 277-5339 Fax (408) 286-0923

# Two More Charged with Child's Death in Church "Exorcism"

May 13, 2022 at 12:00 PM

**For release on May 13, 2022**

CONTACT:

Rebekah Wise  
Deputy District Attorney  
Family Violence Unit  
(408) 808-3752

## **Two More Charged with Child's Death in Church "Exorcism"**

The grandfather and uncle of a 3-year-old girl who died during a San Jose church "exorcism" have been [charged](#) with felony child abuse causing death.

Rene Trigueros Hernandez, 59, and Rene Aaron Hernandez Santos, 19, were charged after [evidence showed](#) that they were active participants in the 12-hour-long "exorcism" at a small, makeshift church, in which they and the child's mother smothered and strangled the toddler until she died of asphyxia.

Evidence shows that the now-three charged suspects in the child's death believed that they were expelling an "evil demon" from the child's body.

Claudia Hernandez, 25, was previously charged, arraigned, and remanded to jail. The new defendants in the case were arraigned on Friday, May 13. If convicted of the felonies, they face life in prison.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen said: "A child is gone because of unimaginable behavior by the same people who should have been taking care of her."

On September 24, 2021, at approximately 8:12 p.m., the San Jose Police Department was notified of a child death. The woman who reported the matter stated that her 3-year-old daughter died. The police responded to a church on South 2nd Street. Firefighters and medical responders found the baby on the floor of the church.

It was hours after the child had died.

The mother believed that her daughter was possessed by a demon because the little girl would wake up in the middle of the night and cry.

Starting around noon the day of the 3-year-old's death at the church, evidence shows that the three (the elder Hernandez is a pastor at the church) at various points were praying, strangling, and pushing on the child's 38-pound body to cause her to vomit up the evil spirit.

The child was pronounced dead at Valley Medical Center at approximately 9:00 p.m.

The autopsy report showed that the child died due to asphyxia from smothering and mechanical asphyxiation, which is force applied to the chest, as well as the mouth and neck. There were many injuries to the child, and they were found all over her body. The most pronounced of the injuries were to her neck and chest, as well as internal bleeding in the heart, bowel, and pancreas, caused by the chest pressure.

###