

District Court, Weld County, Colorado 910 10th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631	
<b>THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</b> <b>vs.</b> <b>LEIYLA MARRISSA CEPEDA ,</b> Defendant	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COURT USE ONLY</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Rourke Nineteenth Judicial District District Attorney, # 28812 P O Box 1167 915 10th Street Greeley, CO 80632 Phone Number: 970-356-4010 Fax: 970-352-8023	Case No:  Div:                      Courtroom:
<b>COMPLAINT AND INFORMATION</b>	

**CHARGES: 2**

**COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(f) (F1){01018}**

**COUNT 2: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(a) (F1){01011}**

Warrant Requested

Permission to file information in district court granted:

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Michael J. Rourke, District Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial District, of the State of Colorado, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, informs the court of the following offenses committed, or triable, in the County of Weld:

**COUNT 1-MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE (F1)**

On or about June 8, 2022, Leiyra Cepeda unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly caused the death of her infant baby, a child who had not yet attained twelve years of age, and the defendant was in a position of trust with respect to the victim; in violation of section 18-3-102(1)(f), C.R.S.

**COUNT 2-MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE (F1)**

On or about June 8, 2022, Leiyra Cepeda unlawfully, feloniously, after deliberation, and with the intent to cause the death of a person other than herself, caused the death of her infant baby; in violation of section 18-3-102(1)(a), C.R.S.

All offenses against the peace and dignity of the people of the State of Colorado.

Michael J. Rourke  
District Attorney, #: 28812

By: /s/ Ashley Paige Fetyko Date: 6/9/2022  
Ashley Paige Fetyko #: 47416  
Deputy District Attorney

22CR959

FILED IN WELD COUNTY  
STATE OF COLORADO COMBINED COURTS  
COUNTY OF WELD ) ss.  
2022 JUN 10 AM 8 55

**AFFIDAVIT CBI 2022-124**

DATE FILED: June 10, 2022 9:19 AM  
CASE NUMBER: 2022CR959

In support of a request for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of Leiyla Marrissa Cepeda, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), the undersigned affiant, being first duly sworn upon oath deposes and says:

That affiant has knowledge of the following facts from which there is probable cause to believe that the offense Murder in the First Degree, hereinafter described was committed by the defendant as charged in the attached instrument on or about the 8th day of June, 2022, in the County of Weld, State of Colorado, to-wit:

Your Affiant is a peace officer for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and has gained the following information by reading police reports, the statements of the victim and witnesses, and through personal investigation.

On Wednesday June 8, 2022, at approximately 0308 hours, Officers with the city the of Nunn and city of Ault Police Departments were dispatched to 625 Lincoln Ave, city of Nunn, County of Weld, state of Colorado, to a death investigation call for service.

Officer Shippy of the Ault Police department learned from the responding paramedics and volunteer fire personnel, there had been a child birth and the baby had possible stab wounds to the torso of its body. Officer Shippy was informed the mother of the newborn baby, Leiyla CEPEDA, date of birth, June 10, 2004, had told responding medical personnel she wasn't feeling well and had not informed her family she was pregnant. CEPEDA indicated she delivered the baby who was not breathing and she had used a small pair of scissors to cut the umbilical cord. CEPEDA then went upstairs to take a shower.

Officer Balltrip of the Nunn Police department and the Weld County Coroner's Investigator, Maria Ordonez entered the scene and took photographs of the crime scene. A bedroom located in the basement of the residence is where the baby was located. Officer Balltrip observed what appeared to be stab wounds to the torso and chest of the deceased new born child. Officer Balltrip located a small pair of scissors lying on the foot of the bed. These scissors had what appeared to be dried blood on them. A photograph of these scissors is depicted below in *Figure 1*.



*Figure 1*

Officer Balltrip collected these scissors by donning rubber gloves and placed them into a paper bag as evidence. These scissors were later placed into evidence at the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Officer Balltrip noted there was a large amount of blood on the floor, walls, curtains and towels in the room. Underneath the bed officers located women's underwear, napkins and leggings that appeared to containing an unknown liquid.

Additionally, Officer Balltrip observed what appeared to be part of a cut umbilical cord and some type of membrane on the floor as well as a bloody towel with some type of membrane visible.

Officer Balltrip spoke with a female in the house, who was identified as Sylvia Segura, date of birth, [REDACTED]. Segura stated she was person who called 911 and she had cleaned up blood in the bathroom and off of the floor in the living room. Segura had placed a bloody bathroom rug in the washing machine in the laundry room of the residence.

Officer Balltrip took photographs of the deceased infant showing the suspected stab wounds to the chest and torso.

CEPEDA was transported to the UC Health hospital in Greeley Colorado prior to Officer Balltrip arriving.

Coroner investigator Ordonez collected the body of the deceased child as well as a bloody towel and part of the umbilical cord.

On June 8, 2022 at approximately 0720 hours, your Affiant was made aware of this incident and that the Weld County District Attorney's Office had requested the CBI to assist in this investigation. Your Affiant as well as Agents Sailor, Tohlman, Lewis and Crime Scene Agent Bryant responded to the Nunn Police Department. Upon arrival CBI Agents met with Deputy District Attorneys Ashley Fetyko and Daniel Skelton, who were then briefed on the totality of the investigation by Officer Balltrip.

During this briefing it was learned the following people were inside the residence at the time of the child birth: Rosalinda Ledesma (CEPEDA's mother), date of birth [REDACTED], Joseph Segura, date of birth [REDACTED], Sylvia Segura, date of birth, [REDACTED], Felicia Segura (NFI) and K.C. Bartholomew, date of birth, [REDACTED].

Following this briefing, your Affiant assisted Officer Balltrip in the drafting of a search warrant for the residence located at 625 Lincoln Ave, Nunn Colorado.

At approximately 1124 hours, Officer Balltrip swore to the search warrant affidavit and a search warrant was granted for the residence by the Honorable District Court Judge Julie Hoskins.

At approximately 1207 hours, your Affiant and others arrived at the crime scene located at 625 Lincoln Ave, Nunn, Colorado. The scene was being guarded by Ault Police Officer Andrew Sanchez. Your Affiant spoke with Officer Sanchez who had been guarding the secured scene since

approximately 0848 hours, per his crime scene log. Officer Sanchez indicated the scene was secured and had been monitored by him, and that no one was inside the residence at this time.

At approximately 1217 hours, your Affiant, Agent Sailor, and CSI Agent Bryant were walked through the crime scene by Officer Balltrip. The crime scene was explained to your Affiant by Officer Balltrip and details were provided as to what was located and where it was located.

At approximately 1225 hours, your Affiant then walked Agent in Charge Lewis and Deputy District Attorneys Fetyko and Skelton through the crime scene. A plan was decided on what was to be collected as evidence.

At approximately 1246 hours, your Affiant left the crime scene which was maintained by Agent in Charge Lewis Crime Scene Agent Bryant. The crime scene was subsequently processed for evidence.

Your Affiant obtained all of the crime scene photographs from Officer Balltrip had taken during his investigation.

At approximately 1424 hours, your Affiant and Agent Sailor responded to the UC Health Greeley Hospital to attempt an interview of both Leiyla CEPEDA and her mother Rosalinda Ledesma, date of birth October 1, 1971.

Upon arrival your Affiant and Agent Sailor contacted the charge nurse, Brittany Warran in the second floor O.B. unit. Nurse Warran indicated CEPEDA had some unexpected bleeding and had gone through some medical procedures. CEPEDA was receiving medication through a pain pump and had received some blood transfusions. The medical procedure was to stop the bleeding.

Nurse Warran was asked if she knew what was going on and she indicated they had some idea but not any details. Nurse Warran did say the charge nurse was told by CEPEDA when she found out she was pregnant she stopped taking her thyroid medication. Nurse Warran called this a "slip up" as CEPEDA had also made statements she didn't know she was pregnant.

Nurse Warran also stated CEPEDA's mother stated she didn't know her daughter was pregnant. CEPEDA's mother had asked how long her daughter was going to be in the hospital as they were planning on going back to their residence in Texas on Saturday. Nurse Warran stated based on the medical condition of CEPEDA, she would be in the hospital for likely the next three days.

Your Affiant requested Rosalinda Ledesma step out of CEPEDA's room so CBI Agents could speak with her privately away from CEPEDA. Ledesma agreed to speak with agents and a recorded interview took place in a near by break room.

The following is a synopsis of this recorded interview; this is not a complete transcription of the interview and does not contain every single detail of the interview. The following information was learned:

- Agent Pearson asked Ledesma if she was ok, she indicated this is the type of stuff you see in the movies.

- Ledesma stated her daughter is beating herself up over this as she didn't trust her mom enough to tell her.
- Ledesma was asked if she knew her daughter was pregnant and she stated she didn't.
- Ledesma provided an address and cell phone for herself to be, [REDACTED]
- Ledesma was asked to tell your Affiant what she knows.
  - Yesterday they all went to Estes Park to go walk and see the stores.
  - CEPEDA didn't feel well during the trip.
  - Ledesma stated it was thought maybe it was the altitude making her feel this way because she was having menstrual cramps.
  - Ledesma stated her daughter was in pain and her back hurt.
  - CEPEDA didn't eat anything and got tired walking
  - Ledesma said she kept encouraging her daughter "you're a champ lets go"
  - Ledesma stated said there was nothing to think her daughter was pregnant, her weight fluctuates, she had COVID
  - She did know her daughter started gaining weight but knew she was working out and doing workouts pregnant people shouldn't do.
  - On the way back from Estes Park, CEPEDA was having difficulties breathing and Ledesma asked her about being pregnant
  - Ledesma stated since she has had three children, she told her daughter "are you sure, you look like a pregnant woman in labor" CEPEDA stated her chest hurt.
  - Ledesma stated they got home around 9pm and went inside the house.
  - CEPEDA went down stairs to lay down since she didn't feel well.
  - Ledesma and her sister Sylvia Segura went downstairs and noticed CEPEDA had the door locked. Ledesma suspected the door was locked because her daughter knew something wasn't right but didn't know how to tell them.
  - Ledesma told CEPEDA to unlock the door, upon going inside they noticed pillows on the floor and they were wondering why she was laying on the floor. They were told she was laying on the floor because CEPEDA's back was hurting and she said that was supposed to help.
  - Ledesma then left and told her daughter to not lock the door again in case there was an emergency.
  - Ledesma stated her sister's daughter had a stroke and you always need to be thinking if something happens, everything is accessible when you have children.
  - She stated even at church you have to know where exits are.
  - Ledesma said she went to the back room a little after 12:00 midnight. She stated this back room is on the upper floor on the main level of the house.
  - Ledesma stated it was nearly 1:00 AM by the time she went to bed. She said she never heard any noise.
  - Ledesma stated Sylvia and Joseph sleep in a bedroom with their grandson. Sylvia sleeps in this room so she can hear everything and is a very light sleeper, Sylvia sleeps but hears everything. Sylvia told Ledesma she never heard anything.
  - Joseph had told her he couldn't believe they never heard anything and wondered if she had covered her mouth with a pillow or something.
  - Ledesma stated she did not know how long this whole process took.
  - She stated at around 2:30 AM, Joseph got up to use the restroom and found CEPEDA in the restroom and noticed a trail of blood.

- Ledesma went to the bathroom and asked if she was ok, she assumed it was a heavy period and told CEPEDA the mess needs to get cleaned up. CEPEDA stated she didn't need any help.
- Ledesma stated her sister, Sylvia then came to her and said "you need to come see this, I think Leiyla had a baby"
- Ledesma stated Sylvia saw the splatter on the wall, and Sylvia said she was calling Leiyla's name.
- Ledesma stated her sister did not know CEPEDA was in the restroom.
- Ledesma said her sister saw a "little knee, leg bent"
- Ledesma said her sister said she needed to call 911.
- Your Affiant asked if Sylvia checked to see if the baby was ok and she said she did not know.
- The 911 operator never told Sylvia to check and see if the baby was breathing, but to go check to see if it's a baby and see if it's moving.
- Ledesma said she went downstairs with her brother in law to check on the baby. She stated she was scared, they didn't want to touch the baby, they didn't know the baby was gone, they didn't think it was alive, it was pale and looked like a little doll.
- Ledesma stated she went to CEPEDA and asked her why she didn't tell her. She stated CEPEDA told her she was scared; the baby wasn't making any sounds and the face was purple.
- Ledesma stated she told CEPEDA "please tell me you didn't do anything to the baby, like that out of your fear, you think, like if you cover the baby."
- CEPEDA told her there was so much blood and the baby just fell.
- Ledesma said CEPEDA is now saying the baby's face was purple, why didn't she tell her mother.
- Ledesma told CEPEDA "it is important that she is honest and when anyone comes to talk to you, you need to be honest, don't keep anything anymore, it doesn't help with anything, things like this happen, I wish it hadn't, you need to be completely honest."
- CEPEDA told Ledesma the baby never made a sound and her face looked purple.
- Ledesma said CEPEDA stated she never felt the baby moving in her stomach.
- Ledesma stated she is trying to figure this out, wondering if the baby died inside her, but what she saw looked like a full-term baby.
- Ledesma stated she was so scared and didn't want to touch anything.
- Ledesma stated she had a miscarriage in the past and knew what was going on.
- She wondered why CEPEDA didn't yell to her or dial her and she raised her to trust her. She stated there will always be times when your kids keep things from you.
- Ledesma told CEPEDA, "we just need to move forward, it happened and we can't change it, we need to move past this and you need to be honest to the things they ask" If you don't, they will find out.
- Ledesma stated she has seen things on the news about leaving their babies and CEPEDA always asked "how can they do that"
- CEPEDA told Ledesma she didn't want to disappoint her.

- Ledesma re-stated she told CEPEDA “we will move past this and figure this out” “we need to let them figure this out” “we are not going home when we thought we were”
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA had been diagnosed with a thyroid condition but had quit taking her medication because she felt better.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA has had some traumatic experiences in the past, she was cutting herself in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, she stopped going to youth services because other girls were talking about her, a relative of theirs spread rumors of CEPEDA sleeping around with boys.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA opened up about an incident when she was 11 years old, she had been inappropriately touched. CEPEDA was 15-16 years old when she told Ledesma.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA is preparing for college and wants to learn welding or maybe mechanical engineering.
- Ledesma told CEPEDA sometimes God changes things for people and mentioned she trusts God in everything, God is her strength, her peace and her tower.
- Ledesma said she raised three kids alone and CEPEDA never had a father in her life and she struggles with this.
- Ledesma said CEPEDA kept telling her “this is her fault, this is her fault, her face was so purple, I just keep seeing it over and over”
- Ledesma stated the wonderful thing is there is so much help for her here.
- Ledesma was asked if CEPEDA told her how long she was with the baby before she decided to go upstairs- Ledesma stated when they asked her, all of this started before 2:00 AM, it was a little after 2:00 AM when she went in the shower. CEPEDA told her the baby wasn’t breathing.
- Ledesma asked “because the baby wasn’t breathing and she was purple, is this why you covered her?” CEPEDA said, “she couldn’t see her like that, and all the blood that came out” Ledesma thought she covered the baby with a sweater or dark rag in the room.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA had to have been standing by the window, she thought she would be as far away from the door as possible to not make any noises that would come out of the door.
- Your Affiant asked Ledesma if she asked CEPEDA why she didn’t come get her? CEPEDA told her she was scared because the baby wasn’t breathing.
- Your Affiant asked a clarifying question about Ledesma asking why she asked CEPEDA if she had done something to the baby. Ledesma stated she has seen this happen before when the mother was so scared, and a baby had choked or they had wrapped the baby tightly so no one could hear the baby crying.
- Ledesma stated she didn’t see CEPEDA as a person who would hurt a child, especially one of her own. She said CEPEDA cries when she sees a dead animal on the street, she has a love for kids and she used to help with kids at church.
- Ledesma said she told CEPEDA she hoped she didn’t feel like those other girls, she said “no I couldn’t do that, I couldn’t do that, I just got scared her face was purple and didn’t know what to do”. Ledesma stated CEPEDA was just in a daze and she didn’t feel like she comprehended what happened.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA told her sister and paramedics following all of this, she did know she was pregnant.



- Ledesma stated the doctors said CEPEDA would be in the hospital for several days.
- Your Affiant explained to Ledesma, he needed to talk with CEPEDA, if she would grant this permission, due to CEPEDA being a juvenile. Ledesma told your Affiant, investigators could talk with her daughter. She stated she had told her daughter Law Enforcement needed to do their job.
- Agent Sailor asked a couple questions before the interview of CEPEDA began. He asked her if she knew how long CEPEDA was pregnant and she said she didn't know.
- Ledesma stated CEPEDA had gotten COVID in March. CEPEDA had lost a lot of weight before this due to depression and wouldn't eat and sometimes force herself to vomit.
- Ledesma was asked if a police report was ever filed in reference to the molestation she had mentioned. She stated they did file a police report but nothing was done.
- Ledesma was explained the juvenile Miranda procedures and she agreed to cooperate with this and let her daughter talk to your Affiant.
- At approximately 1514 hours, Your Affiant, Agent Sailor and Ledesma all went back to the hospital room where CEPEDA was laying on her bed.
- The following a synopsis of this interview and does not contain every detail of the audio recorded interview.
  - CEPEDA was lying in her hospital bed and was sleeping when your Affiant walked in.
  - CEPEDA slightly sat up in her bed and laid back down.
  - CEPEDA agreed to talk with your Affiant.
  - CEPEDA was explained your Affiant needed to advise her of her Miranda rights.
  - Both CEPEDA and Ledesma verbally acknowledged they understood her Miranda rights.
  - Both CEPEDA and Ledesma then both acknowledged and waived her Miranda rights in writing via a Juvenile Advisement form.
  - Your Affiant asked CEPEDA how long she had been pregnant, she said she wasn't sure, but she had a full period in August, missed it in September, she had 2 more periods in November in October, missed another one and had a light period in February and a really heavy period in March. She stated yesterday, she was spotting.
  - Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if she thought she was pregnant, she stated she thought she was but wasn't sure.
  - Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if she had ever taken a pregnancy test and she stated she did, it came out negative. She was then asked when she took this test, but asked her mom when this test was. Ledesma stated it was 3-4 months back when she took this test.
  - Your Affiant asked CEPEDA what happened last night:
    - She stated she started having really bad cramps and contractions
    - She was in the downstairs room by herself
    - She felt if she had to defecate or something
    - It was a feeling to push it out, but couldn't because of her nails.
    - She kept checking herself but couldn't because she has long nails
    - She was by her aunts' bed and squatting
    - She figured she had to start pushing because of bad cramps

- The only comfortable position for her was to squat
- Your Affiant asked her what she thought was going on and she said “she thought this was probably going to happen”
- She said she still hadn’t told her mom.
- Due to health classes in school she said she kind of knew what was happening and in her mind, she figured she was going to have a baby.
- At approximately 1:30 AM, she felt the baby might be ready to come out and she could feel it crowing. She stated there was a lot of blood she checked. She remembered it was 1:29 AM and she got a text from her brother’s girlfriend asking why she was awake. She said she didn’t text her back.
- About 40 minutes after she had initially felt the baby crowing she felt like she had to push. She stated she stood up and “she fell out of me”
- “she was quiet and she wasn’t moving”
- The umbilical cord tore and she flattened out because she fell out head first.
- She said “there was gushes of blood and I didn’t know what to do”
- The baby wasn’t moving on her own and the baby wasn’t crying, the baby’s face was purple.
- Your Affiant asked if the baby was breathing and she stated she was in shock and didn’t know what to do. She said it didn’t look as if the baby was breathing.
- She stated she covered the baby with a towel and a lot of blood was coming out of her.
- She stated the placenta also came out.
- Your Affiant then asked what she did with the baby at that point? CEPEDA stated she rolled her up in a towel and left her and covered her with her sweater, then went to take a shower.
- She stated she wanted to call her mom but didn’t know what to do.
- Your Affiant asked where CEPEDA left the baby and she stated she left her on the floor.
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if she ever picked up the baby and she stated she “couldn’t”
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA to try and remember what she was thinking and she said “I wasn’t thinking, I was thinking about calling my mom”
- She stated she had so much blood on her and she needed to wash it off as she never seen so much blood.
- Your Affiant asked to clarify how the baby was laying on the floor. Initially the baby was laying on her back with her face up. CEPEDA stated she rolled her over onto her stomach where she was laying face down and covered her with a towel.
- Your Affiant asked how long it was before she rolled the baby over and she stated she thought it was 10-15 minutes.
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA about the blood trail going across the room towards the closet. CEPEDA stated she went to grab a sweater and “get her scissors to cut the cord coming out of her”
- CEPEDA stated the cord broke when the baby came out.

- CEPEDA stated she grabbed the scissors to cut a piece off of her but there was still more.
- (It should be noted CEPEDA appeared to wince in pain on several occasions when a difficult or critical question was asked of her)
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA what she was thinking when the baby came out? She stated she had to figure out how to tell her mom.
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if she thought about calling her mom on the phone? She stated she didn't but how to... CEPEDA never finished this sentence) ...
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if she wanted to make sure the baby was ok? She stated she did but she didn't think the baby was ok (at this time, CEPEDA winced in pain)
- CEPEDA stated she wanted the baby to be ok. She thought if she let her lay down and go take a shower then to come clean her up. Your Affiant asked if she thought might be ok after CEPEDA came from a shower and she stated "yeah, if I gave her some time"
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if there was anything else that happened to the baby that Law Enforcement should know about? She stated "no"
- Your Affiant asked her if she saw any injuries to the baby? She stated "no, but when she was coming out, she tried to grab her head" She stated she grabbed her head and "tried to pull her out, but that didn't work". She stated she was holding onto the top and side of the baby's head.
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA when she cut the cord, how close she thought she was to the baby? She stated the baby was right in front of her.
- CEPEDA was then asked if the scissors ever got close to the baby? She said "No"
- CEPEDA was asked if the scissors were ever dropped onto the baby? She stated, "No, I don't think so" Your Affiant clarified by asking, "Is it possible?" CEPEDA stated, "they could have fallen when she was grabbing her stuff off the bed, but she doesn't remember them flying off the bed"
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA if there was any reason the baby would have cuts on its body? She stated, "No". Your Affiant clarified by asking, "are you sure", "I need to know what happened" CEPEDA then stated, "no, there is no reason for the baby to have any cuts"
- Your Affiant explained he saw photographs of the baby, as did the Coroner and explained the baby had some significant wounds. CEPEDA stated "I didn't do it", Your Affiant clarified he needed to know what happened. CEPEDA stated "I did not do that to that baby".
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA to help him understand it and reminded her she was the only one in the room. Your Affiant explained that sometimes accidents happen, things happen out of shock or when people aren't thinking right. CEPEDA responded with "I didn't do that to the baby". Your Affiant then asked CEPEDA, "Then who did?", she responded with "I don't know but I couldn't have done that to the baby, I

don't, I was bleeding, I cut the umbilical cord on me and didn't touch the one on her, that's all I used them for".

- Your Affiant explained to CEPEDA his job was to figure out what happened to the baby, hence the reason he gave CEPEDA some possible reasons why some strange things happen in a traumatic event.
- Your Affiant again asked what CEPEDA was thinking and to tell him why this happened to the baby. CEPEDA said "I don't know". She was told your Affiant need to hear that from her. (brief pause in the interview due to medical equipment making excessive noise) CEPEDA's mother, Ledesma then asked if they should seek legal counsel. Your Affiant explained that was their right to do at any time during the interview if they wished.
- Your Affiant then told her "sometimes the best place for us to find answers to our questions is from the only person who knows". Ledesma, stated "true, like I told you in there, I have mentioned to her complete honesty is always the best even if". Ledesma then asked her CEPEDA, "Do you want to keep talking, do you want to keep answering questions, is there something more you need to tell them?" CEPEDA responded to her mother, "that is all I know"
- Your Affiant then told CEPEDA, the questions that were asked of her were very direct for a reason. CEPEDA was told the baby has obvious injuries that were not caused by natural child birth and that he knows something happened in the room when she wasn't thinking straight. Your Affiant told CEPEDA, he couldn't make up this reason and he needed to get this from her. Your Affiant told CEPEDA and Ledesma he didn't want the evidence in the investigation to show CEPEDA was not being truthful.
- CEPEDA was told Your Affiant was looking for some justification as to why this happened opposed to her saying she didn't do anything or didn't know what was happened.
- CEPEDA was then asked what her heart and mind were telling her when this happened. CEPEDA stated "that I couldn't do it". Your Affiant stated, "hmmm?", CEPEDA responded with "That I couldn't do it". Your Affiant clarified, "you couldn't be a mom?" and she responded with "No".
- Your Affiant asked her "why not?", and she said "because I never told anybody"
- CEPEDA stated she couldn't tell her mom.
- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA to clarify why she would do this. CEPEDA stated "it wasn't moving", Your Affiant asked "if the baby wasn't moving, why would you take the scissors and do this?" Was this going to help the situation? CEPEDA stated "no".
- CEPEDA was asked to help your Affiant, she stated, "I don't know"
- CEPEDA was again asked to help your Affiant understand, CEPEDA stated "She wasn't moving, she didn't think there, she didn't think she was alive when she came out". CEPEDA was asked why she would do this with the scissors? She stated "I don't know".

- Your Affiant asked CEPEDA how many times she stuck the scissors into her baby?
- This question was not answered, Ledesma requested an attorney at this time and the questioning was immediately stopped by your Affiant.

On June 9, 2022, an autopsy was conducted on the deceased baby. This autopsy was conducted by Doctor Michael Burson, at the Weld County Coroners office, located at 1121 M Street, Greeley, Colorado. This autopsy was attended by CBI Assistant Director Tim Martinez, CBI Crime Scene Agent Bryant and Deputy District Attorney Skelton.

Assistant Director Martinez made the following observations during the autopsy. When the infant's body was washed and medical equipment removed, he saw a significant number of puncture wounds that appeared to be centered around the infant's chest, rib cage and abdomen. The infant appeared to be near full development and nourished.

Dr Michael Burson told Assistant Director Martinez, after the skin layer of the infants chest was removed, that the puncture wounds extended beyond the sternum. Later, Dr Burson pointed out there was penetration to the abdominal cavity. When the liver, heart and lungs were removed, Assistant Director Martinez saw these organs displayed on a table and observed puncture wounds in these organs.

Dr. Burson's medical opinion was that the infant was born alive. He advised blood in the chest cavity and bruising around the wounds supports this opinion.

Dr. Burson concluded that the infant was not a stillborn, and determined the cause of death to be multiple sharp force injuries, and the manner of death to be homicide.

Your affiant informs the court that Colorado DMV files and CCIC/NCIC files describe Leiyla CEPEDA as a Hispanic female, 5'7" tall, 180 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. Her Texas driver's license number is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. CEPEDA's SID number is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. CEPEDA's last known address is [REDACTED].

Based on the above facts and circumstances, your affiant believes that probable cause exists to believe that the crimes of Murder in the First Degree as defined by C.R.S. 18-3-102(1)(a) and (1)(f) have been committed, and that Leiyla Marissa CEPEDA did commit the offenses.

*[Signature]*  
AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

*[Signature]*  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires: 9-15-22

AMY R. MAYO  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF COLORADO  
NOTARY ID 20104035710  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPT. 15, 2022

Sworn to before  
Judge Karpow  
*[Signature]*  
6-10-22

MICHAEL J. ROURKE  
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Office of the District Attorney  
Nineteenth Judicial District

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Date: 6.10.22

Contact: Krista Henery • [khenery@weldgov.com](mailto:khenery@weldgov.com) • 970.400.4700

**Teen mother charged with stabbing, killing newborn baby at rural Weld County home**

GREELEY, Colo. (Weld County D.A.) – An 18-year-old female from Texas has been charged in connection to the death of her newborn child in Weld County.

Leiyla Cepeda was arrested and charged Friday with two count of first-degree murder in Weld district court. Cepeda was 17-years-old at the time of the allegations and has been charged as an adult.

On Wednesday, officers responded to a call about a deceased female infant that was found in a Nunn home. The infant had what appeared to be stab wounds to her body.

Agents with the Colorado Bureau of Investigations assisted the Nunn Police Department with the investigation.

Cepeda is currently in custody at a local hospital. A court date has not yet been set for Cepeda.

No other information is available at this time.

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