



PRESS RELEASE



Arrests, charges in the death of 11-year-old Roman Lopez

The Placerville Police Department and El Dorado District Attorney's office announced arrests and charges in the death of Roman Lopez, 11.

Jordan Piper, 36, and Lindsey Piper, 38, the father and stepmother of Roman respectively, face multiple criminal charges including Child Abuse, Poisoning, and Torture.

Background

On January 11, 2020, 11-year-old Roman Lopez was reported missing from 2892 Coloma Street in the City of Placerville. At the time Roman was reported missing, he lived in the home with his biological father Jordan Piper, stepmother Lindsey Piper, and 7 additional children ranging in age from 1 to 17 years old. The family had recently moved to Placerville and had only lived in this home for a little over 2 months at the time the report was filed.

After an initial search for Roman was unsuccessful, a second, more extensive search of the home was launched. Placerville Police Investigators located Roman deceased inside a storage bin in the basement.

An investigation into the death of Roman commenced using all available resources. Personnel from the Placerville Police Department and El Dorado County District Attorney's Office worked non-stop to determine what happened at the time of Roman's death.

Although an autopsy revealed no obvious trauma, Roman was found to be severely malnourished and dehydrated at the time of his death.

Much of this case involved the analysis of forensic evidence, to include obtaining search warrants to seize electronic devices, review data, and working with medical professionals as well as experts in the field of child abuse. Adding to the complexity of this case was how often this family moved and the various agencies they had encountered. The combined investigative team contacted multiple agencies, in another state, including child protective services, medical providers, law enforcement agencies and courts.

After a thorough investigation of the facts in the case, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office has decided to file charges against Jordan Piper (36) and Lindsey Piper (38), including violations of Penal Code Section 273a(a) - Child Abuse under

circumstances or conditions likely to produce great bodily injury or death; and Penal Code Section 206 – the crime of Torture. Furthermore, Jordan Piper was charged with a violation of Penal Code Section 270 - Failure to Provide for a Child, and Lindsay Piper was charged with a violation of Penal Code Section 347(a) - the crime of Poisoning.

The Placerville Police Department and the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office would like to thank Roman's loved ones, who never lost confidence in our ability as an investigative team to leave no question unanswered. Our hearts will forever be with them all. We understand this case brings many questions and emotions within our community, but our commitment to conduct a thorough investigation has never stopped.

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