



# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA

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David A. Linn, District Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015**

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## **AMY LOUISE CHAVOYA HELD TO ANSWER FOR THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF MADERA GIRL**

MADERA, CA. – District Attorney David A. Linn announced today that Superior Court Judge Mitchell Rigby ruled on the preliminary hearing of Amy Louise Chavoyna this morning after hearing testimony and arguments on December 11, 14, and 15, that the defendant, Amy Louise Chavoyna of Madera, be held to answer and be bound over on all counts including the special circumstance and corresponding enhancements of the murder of Mariah F, involving the infliction of torture within the meaning of the California penal code section 190.2(a)(18).

Additionally, the court bound the defendant over on Counts 2, 3, and 4 of the first amended complaint. Counts 2 and 3, both PC206, allege that Ms. Chavoyna, with the intent to cause cruel and extreme pain and suffering for the purpose of revenge, extortion, persuasion and for a sadistic purpose, inflict great bodily injury, as defined in Penal Code section 12022.7, upon Mariah F and her brother Christopher. Count 4, PC273a(a), alleges that Ms. Chavoyna, under circumstances likely to produce great bodily harm and death, injure, cause, and permit a child, Mariah F, to suffer and to be inflicted with unjustifiable physical pain and mental suffering, and, having the care and custody of said child, injure, cause, and permit the person and health of said child to be injured and did cause and permit said child to be placed in such a situation that her person and health was endangered. It is further alleged pursuant to section 12022.95 that Ms. Chavoyna, under circumstances and conditions likely to produce great bodily harm and death, willfully caused and permitted a child to suffer, and inflicted thereon unjustifiable physical pain and injury that resulted in death, and having the care and custody of a child, under circumstances likely to produce great bodily harm and death, willfully caused and permitted that child to be injured and harmed and that injury and harm resulted in death.

D.A. Linn thanked Senior Deputy District Attorney John Baker, Deputy District Attorney Christine Nijjer, and Lieutenant Bill Ward of the Madera County Sheriff's Department for their excellent work in this case. Linn also stated that the testimony of Dr. Phillip Hayden, of Valley Children's Hospital, was impassioned and very valuable to this prosecution. Linn stated that the successful outcome of the preliminary hearing was because the District Attorney's and Sheriff's offices functioned as a team and accomplished all of the goals that they had.

The case has been set for Arraignment on the Felony information, December 30, 2015, in Department 29, at 8:30am.

D.A. Linn stated that no decision as to whether the prosecution will elect to pursue the death penalty has yet been made. Additionally, the investigation against defendant Chavoya's husband, Gerardo Flores, a San Joaquin County Sheriff's Deputy, continues and that a complaint against Mr. Flores will be filed in the near future.

D.A. Linn also stated that he is in the process of acquiring court permission to review all matters concerning the defendant's foster care and adoption of the victim, for purposes of prosecution of Ms. Chavoya and Mr. Flores, and to ensure that all appropriate safeguards were followed to protect the minor children as provided under the law.

D.A. Linn said, "We will ensure that justice is finally obtained for young Mariah and that this type of case never happens again in Madera County or any other county in the State of California."