



Jeremy Reed

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Twenty-Second Judicial District
Montezuma and Dolores Counties
State of Colorado*

Justin Pierce
Assistant District Attorney

John Goodlander
Deputy District Attorney

Caroline Davenport
Deputy District Attorney

Jon Levin
Deputy District Attorney

Rocio Roman
Deputy District Attorney

Clarisa Osborn
Office Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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22nd Judicial District Attorney Jeremy Reed announced today that the office will move to dismiss the case against Rachel Leonard, who was charged in connection with her child's death in 2022.

The decision follows a review that identified issues with the original investigation that resulted in a motion to suppress a key piece of evidence that, without, the prosecution cannot continue. The District Attorney determined that a detective obtained some evidence without a warrant and then failed to secure a warrant in a timely manner which would have permitted a further search of the key item of evidence. As a result of this inaction, this key piece of evidence and its contents would not be permitted at trial. The office does not believe the remaining evidence will meet the judicial system's high standards to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

"This is one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make. Over the past four years, the office of the District Attorney, including my administration, has put forth every effort imaginable to obtain justice for this 5-year-old victim. This is not the outcome I wanted, but ethically I cannot move forward on cases where I do not have a good faith belief we can secure a conviction. District Attorneys are held to the highest ethical and legal standards, and it is important to this office that we meet those high expectations, even when the result is not desirable." said Jeremy Reed, 22nd Judicial District Attorney.

The office has been in direct contact with the victim's family throughout this process and will continue to keep them informed.

The 22nd Judicial District Attorney's Office remains committed to pursuing justice for victims of violent crime and is working closely with the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office to improve systems to ensure investigations meet the standards required to hold offenders accountable through the court process.