



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

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The Office of the Inspector General Completes Investigation of the Death of Eight-Year-Old Guatemalan Child Who Died in U.S. Border Patrol Custody

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently completed an investigation into the death of a Guatemalan child who died in U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) custody.

The investigation found no misconduct or malfeasance by DHS personnel:

- On December 18, 2018, an 8-year-old child and his father were apprehended near El Paso, Texas.
- On December 23, 2018, they were transported to the Alamogordo, New Mexico USBP Checkpoint to await family placement.
- On December 24, 2018, a USBP agent noticed that the child appeared ill and interviewed the father, who requested medical treatment for his son.
- USBP transported the child and the child's father to the nearest hospital for evaluation and treatment.
- The hospital staff diagnosed the child with an upper respiratory infection, prescribed amoxicillin and acetaminophen, and discharged the child, who was returned to the USBP facility.
- USBP personnel obtained and administered the prescriptions to the child.
- The child's condition improved briefly, and subsequently worsened.
- USBP again transported the child and father to the hospital; upon arrival, the child was unresponsive and pronounced dead.
- OIG conducted a detailed investigation and coordinated with the local medical examiner's office.
- The state medical examiner's autopsy report found the child died from sepsis caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria.