

Police let former suspect in child abuse case leave with expired license days before boy was found dead

KOB.com Web Staff

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Newly released lapel camera shows police interacting with two suspects in a child abuse death days before it happened.

Tracy Peña, the mother of 13-year-old Jeremiah Valencia, is seen being arrested by Santa Fe Police last November on outstanding warrants. Officers then went to give some of her items to Thomas Ferguson, her boyfriend at the time.

During the interaction, they found he had an expired driver's license, but let him go.



"It's expired, but it's not suspended or anything, so get there and that's it, OK? Get that taken care of," Santa Fe Police can be hearing telling Ferguson in lapel footage obtained by KOB.

Two days later, investigators say Peña returned home to find her son dead. Ferguson was initially accused of killing him before committing suicide behind bars, but prosecutors now suspect Ferguson's adult son, Jordan Nuñez, carried out the fatal blow that killed the boy.

Nuñez and Peña face charges of child abuse resulting in death and tampering with evidence.