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HORRIFYING DISCOVERY: 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL BATHTUB, TWO ARRESTED



Bakersfield, Calif. (August 3, 2025) — A man from Bakersfield and a woman from Delano have been arrested in connection with the death of an 8-year-old girl found in a hotel bathtub on Saturday, according to the Bakersfield Police Department.

Officers responded at approximately 5:37 p.m. to a call reporting a possible medical emergency at the La Quinta Inn, located at 3232 Riverside Boulevard. Upon arrival, they located the room in question and discovered the bathroom door was locked. After forcing entry, officers found the child deceased in the bathtub with what investigators described as “substantial trauma to her body.”

Following an investigation, Bakersfield Police identified and arrested two suspects: 31-year-old Ray Mata Jr. of Bakersfield and 27-year-old Graciela Bustamonte of Delano. Both were taken into custody and booked on suspicion of murder, torture, and multiple counts of child abuse. Authorities have not released the identity of the child or further details regarding the relationship between the suspects and the victim.

Bakersfield Police are asking anyone with information related to this case to contact the department at (661) 327-7111.

The department also reminded the public that if anyone suspects a child is being abused or



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neglected, they should call the Kern [County Child Abuse](#) Hotline. The hotline is available 24 hours a day at (661) 631-6011 or 1-800-540-4000.

[Support services](#) are available for victims of child abuse through The Open Door Network, which offers counseling and emergency assistance. Their hotline can be reached at (661) 322-9199.

This investigation remains ongoing, and no further details have been released at this time. [Kings Network News](#) will continue to follow this story as more information becomes available.