



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire
Coroner

PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 12, 2020

Subject: Child death investigation involving five year old female on December 11, 2019.

Identity of Deceased: Sophia Larson, 5-years old, resident of Garfield County, CO.

On December 11, 2019 at approximately 3:44am the Garfield County Coroner's Office was dispatched to Grand River Hospital in Rifle, CO for a death investigation involving a five year old girl. The subsequent law enforcement and coroner's office investigation suggested that the child may have ingested methamphetamine.

An autopsy was completed the same day by the coroner's office contract forensic pathologist. In January 2020, toxicology results were completed and showed that the decedent had a very high level of methamphetamine in her system. The forensic pathologist determined the cause of death to be "methamphetamine intoxication." The manner of death is certified as "accident."

In determining the manner of death, The Garfield County Coroner's Office adheres to the principles in the NAME (National Association of Medical Examiners) "A guide For Manner of Death Classification."¹ The manner of death is a medical classification for statistical purposes and the manner of death certification has no bearing on criminal justice proceedings, or if law enforcement or prosecutor should or should not charge a person for a violation of criminal statute.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Glassmire
Garfield County Coroner

¹ Hanzlick, R., Hunsaker, J. C., & Davis, G. G. J. (n.d.). *A Guide for Manner of Death Classification* (First). National Association of Medical Examiners.