# Mother of Two Dies After Illicit Medical Procedure in Somerville Home



Nicole “Nikki” Sandoval, a mother of two from Everett, died after undergoing an illicit surgical procedure at a Somerville home. The incident was reported on May 9, just before midnight, when Everett authorities received a 911 call about a 35-year-old woman experiencing severe post-procedure complications. Sandoval was taken to CHA Everett Hospital and was pronounced dead.

Another woman also underwent a procedure at the same location and was hospitalized in Boston. The Middlesex District Attorney's office is investigating the case but has not provided updates or disclosed the type of procedure performed.

Sandoval leaves behind her husband, Oscar Vasquez, and their two daughters, Sofia and Valentína. A GoFundMe page has been set up for her family, raising over $4,000.

Alex Train, COO of La Colaborativa—a Chelsea nonprofit—highlighted that immigrant communities are particularly targeted by underground medical practitioners due to barriers in accessing conventional healthcare, such as cost and language issues. Sandoval’s heritage was not specified.

Somerville City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen expressed his shock upon learning about the illicit activities. Local officials, including Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Police Chief Charles Femino, have not commented.

Authorities urge residents to seek care only from licensed professionals and report suspected illegal medical activities to 911. The Massachusetts Medical Society emphasized the dangers of unlicensed procedures, noting the risk of severe complications.

Instances of illicit medical practices have surfaced in Massachusetts, with recent arrests related to unlicensed chiropractic and dental services. The state’s attorney general has the authority to criminally enforce actions against illegal medical practices, although this power is seldom used.