

Reported Cases of Fathers Accused or Convicted of Killing Their Children, 2019–2026

United States | Selected reported cases through October 11, 2026

Scope and important distinctions

Paternal filicide refers to the killing of one's own child by the child's father. The broader term filicide refers to a parent killing their child, regardless of the parent's sex.

This document lists selected U.S. cases involving fathers accused or convicted of killing their children between 2019 and October 2026. It includes cases involving multiple child victims and murder-suicides. It is not a complete national list, and the cases should not be used alone to estimate how frequently these crimes occur.

An accusation is not the same as a conviction. Where relevant, the legal status is noted separately, including cases in which a conviction was overturned or a suspect died before trial.

Selected cases

1. Adam Montgomery — New Hampshire

- Child: Harmony Montgomery, age 5.
- Year: 2019; subsequent court proceedings through 2026.
- Case summary: Harmony disappeared in 2019 and is believed to have been killed that year. Her father, Adam Montgomery, was convicted in connection with her death and sentenced in 2024. In 2026, the New Hampshire Supreme Court overturned his murder conviction and sent that charge back for retrial.
- Legal status: The murder conviction was overturned and remanded for retrial, according to the cited reporting. It should not be described as a final, standing murder conviction.

Sources:

- Associated Press, New Hampshire court ruling:
<https://apnews.com/article/607b8988b51e7f955627acfadc98870>
- Associated Press, sentencing report:
<https://apnews.com/article/875e1c571c11c70d189f91ebe740b0b4>

2. Anthony Todt — Celebration, Florida

- Year: The killings reportedly occurred in December 2019; the bodies were discovered in January 2020.
- Victims: His wife, Megan Todt, and their three children, Alek, 13, Tyler, 11, and Zoe, 4.
- Case summary: Authorities said Anthony Todt killed his wife and three children in their home. The case included four counts of first-degree murder.
- Legal outcome: In April 2022, Todt was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to four consecutive life sentences without parole.

Sources:

- Florida Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, conviction announcement: <https://sao9.net/state-attorney-worrell-announces-conviction-of-anthony-todt-for-first-degree-murder-and-cruelty-to-animals/>
- ClickOrlando, initial reporting: <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2020/01/15/sheriff-man-killed-wife-3-kids-in-celebration-home/>

3. Michael Haight — Enoch, Utah

- Year: January 2023.
- Victims: His wife, Tausha Haight; their five children, ages 4 to 17; and his mother-in-law, Gail Earl.
- Case summary: Police reported that Michael Haight killed family members before killing himself. The case involved the deaths of five children as part of a larger family homicide.
- Legal outcome: Reported murder-suicide. Haight died, so there was no criminal trial against him.

Sources:

- Deseret News, final police report: <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2023/4/7/23674927/enoch-murder-suicide-final-report-michael-haight/>
- Deseret News, search warrant details: <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2023/1/24/23569827/enoch-police-search-warrant-new-details-murder-suicide/>

4. Chad Doerman — Monroe Township, Ohio

- Year: June 2023.
- Victims: His three sons, Clayton, 7; Hunter, 4; and Chase, 3.

- Case summary: Doerman killed his three young sons in June 2023. The case resulted in aggravated murder and felonious assault charges.
- Legal outcome: He pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated murder and two counts of felonious assault. In August 2024, he was sentenced to three consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole, plus additional prison time for the assault charges.

Sources:

- CBS News, sentencing report: <https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/chad-doerman-life-sentence-murder-kids/>
- NY1, indictment report: <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/ap-top-news/2023/06/23/ohio-father-accused-of-killing-his-3-young-sons-indicted-on-murder-charges>

5. Jake Haro — Southern California

- Year: 2025.
- Victim: Emmanuel Haro, age 7 months.
- Case summary: Emmanuel was reported missing in August 2025. His father, Jake Haro, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and related offenses. The case received national attention because the child's body had not been located in the cited reports.
- Legal outcome: News reports in November 2025 said Haro was sentenced to 25 years to life for the child's murder, with additional consecutive prison time for other offenses.

Sources:

- ABC News, sentencing report: <https://abcnews.com/US/jake-haro-father-missing-baby-emmanuel-haro-sentenced/story?id=127142996>
- CBS Los Angeles, sentencing report: <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/emmanuel-haro-yucaipa-cabazon-father-jake-haro-sentenced/>

6. Anthony Andrew Esposito Jr. — Branford, Connecticut

- Year: May 2025; sentencing in 2026.
- Victims: His son, Anthony P. Esposito, age 12; his teenage daughter survived an alleged attempted killing.
- Case summary: Authorities reported that Esposito killed his son and attempted to kill his daughter.
- Legal outcome: According to reporting, Esposito pleaded guilty in April 2026 and was sentenced in July 2026 to 60 years in prison, comprising 40 years for his son's murder and a consecutive 20 years for the attempted murder of his daughter.

Sources:

- WFSB, sentencing report: <https://www.wfsb.com/2026/07/06/branford-father-sentenced-60-years-sons-murder-attempted-murder-daughter/>
- People, sentencing report: <https://people.com/father-sentenced-60-years-killing-12-year-old-son-baseball-bat-attempting-murder-teenage-daughter-12013995>

7. Reported deaths of two children near Ukiah, California

- Year: October 2026.
- Victims: A girl, age 14, and a boy, age 7.
- Case summary: A report published on October 11, 2026, described an investigation into the deaths of two children near Ukiah. A 44-year-old man reported to be their father was suspected of killing the children before dying himself.
- Legal status: Preliminary reporting of a suspected murder-suicide. This was an ongoing investigation, not a court finding. The information and identities should be checked against subsequent official reporting.

Source:

- San Francisco Chronicle: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/ukiah-double-murder-suicide-22471731.php>

National data and research context

Individual news stories do not establish how frequently fathers kill their children nationwide. National datasets differ in their definitions, reporting requirements, and coverage of child homicides.

The following sources can help place individual cases within a larger research context.

1. FBI Child Victimization, 2019–2023

The FBI published a special report examining child victimization using reported crime data. It provides information about incidents reported through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

- FBI announcement: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-child-victimization-2019-2023-special-report>
- Full report in PDF format: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/resources/reports/Child%20Victimization%202019-2023.pdf>

2. Research on filicide incidents, 1999–2023

A 2026 study titled *Innocence Interrupted: A 25-Year Study of Reported Filicide Incidents in the United States, 1999 to 2023* examined reported filicide incidents in NIBRS.

The study reported 3,974 incidents and identified 2,371 male offenders (59.8%) and 1,597 female offenders (40.2%) in its dataset. These figures describe the study's reported incidents, not every child killed by a parent in the United States.

- Journal article: <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605261444011>
- Full-text article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/08862605261444011>

Definitions for classifying cases

Term	Definition
Filicide	A parent killing their own child.
Paternal filicide	A father killing his own child.
Maternal filicide	A mother killing her own child.
Infanticide	The killing of an infant; the precise legal meaning varies by jurisdiction.
Neonaticide	The killing of a newborn within the first 24 hours after birth, as commonly defined in research.
Familicide	The killing of multiple family members, potentially including a spouse or partner and children.
Murder-suicide	A killing or series of killings followed by the suspected perpetrator's suicide.

Method and limitations

This is a selected list of reported cases, not a complete national registry. The examples include different circumstances, including killings involving multiple family members and cases where a child disappeared and was presumed or determined to have been killed. The legal outcomes also differ, ranging from guilty pleas and convictions to murder-suicide investigations.

For a comprehensive research document, each case should be checked against court records, prosecutor announcements, and law-enforcement statements. Appeals and later court rulings can change the legal status of a case, so the status should be verified as of the date the document is published.