



# News Release

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## **King County licensed practical nurse suspended following child's death**

**OLYMPIA** — A King County licensed practical nurse's license has been immediately suspended by state Nursing Commission after a three-year-old child died under his care.

Charging documents state Fernando Nunez-Mesta (LPN.LP.00055811) was working as a nurse for a child with Down syndrome who needed a machine to breathe at night. While under Nunez-Mesta's care, the child stopped breathing and then died. Nunez-Mesta allegedly didn't connect the breathing machine as required. He also muted or turned off the alarm designed to alert him of a problem with the child's breathing. The charges further say that these nursing failures were the direct cause of the child's death. An investigation revealed that Nunez-Mesta didn't know how to properly operate the machine.

Nunez-Mesta has 20 days to contest the charges and suspension. He cannot work as a licensed practical nurse until the charges are resolved.

Documents in this case can be seen online by clicking "[Health care provider](#)" on the [Department of Health's website](#). Copies of the documents can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Nursing Commission protects public health and safety in Washington by regulation of nursing practice. The Commission establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency, and discipline.

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