

17. MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA HERNANDEZ

Who was Miguel Angel Garcia Hernandez? Miguel Angel Garcia was a 31 year old man from San Luis Potosí, Mexico who had lived in the US since he was 14 years old. He came to the U.S. with his three brothers, and he met his wife Stephany when they were freshmen in high school together in Arlington, TX. Miguel Garcia helped raise Stephany's two daughters and the couple went on to have two children of their own. Garcia, working as a painter and contractor, was able to buy the family's first home in 2025. "He was a stellar dad," said his wife Stephany, "spoiling the girls, attending daddy-daughter dances, helping with the 8-year-old daughter who is autistic, and doting on Miguel, Jr."

He worked hard painting and remodeling homes, bought a house in Arlington, and dreamed of starting his own painting company. When Stephany became pregnant with another boy in late 2024, Garcia was elated. In order to stay in the U.S. permanently, Garcia started a visa process.

How did Miguel Angel Garcia end up in ICE custody? Then, in 2025, he got a DUI and was remanded to ICE. Talking with his wife by phone from Tarrant County Jail in Arlington, he was hopeful that he would soon be coming home. The following day, September 24, 2025, Garcia and two other detainees were shot by a gunman at the entrance to the Dallas ICE field office, as they were being transported. He died a few days later, leaving his wife with four children and another to be born three days later.

How did Miguel Angel Garcia die under ICE custody? On September 24, 2025, ICE took custody of Miguel from the county jail, and transported him to its Dallas field office. That morning, a lone gunman opened fire on the ICE facility from a nearby rooftop. Miguel Garcia was under ICE custody when the bullets came down on the detained men inside a government vehicle, while they were handcuffed, shackled, unable to seek cover, and dependent on ICE for safety. Miguel Garcia was one of two ICE detainees who died; a third was wounded but survived.

What happened after Miguel Angel Garcia died? When Stephany finally saw her husband at Parkland Hospital, he was unconscious, connected to machines, and still restrained to the hospital bed. His family eventually made the decision to remove him from life support. According to ICE, Miguel died at 11:48 p.m. on September 29, 2025.

Three days later, Stephany gave birth to their son. The baby boy was given the name Miles Alexander García, the name Miguel Garcia had chosen for his son.

Then, in December, 2025, Stephany received a letter from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The provisional unlawful-presence waiver, which had been pending for roughly two years, had finally been approved. One of the major legal barriers standing between Miguel Garcia and lawful permanent residence in the United States had finally been removed, two months after he was buried.

Sources:

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