

Exclusive

Siblings Were 'Slowly Poisoned' at Their Rental Home While in Mexico for a Concert. Now Mom Is Suing Airbnb (Exclusive)

Laura Esperanza Morales's two adult children were found dead at an Airbnb property in Mexico City in February 2025, according to a complaint

By [David Chiu](#) | Published on May 7, 2026 05:31PM EDT

1 COMMENT



Laura Esperanza Morales (C) with her children Laura and Hugo.
Credit : Jose Becerra

NEED TO KNOW

- Laura Esperanza Morales' two children, Hugo, 35, and Laura, 37, were visiting Mexico City in February 2025 to see a concert, only to be found dead at their Airbnb property
- According to a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Morales, the siblings died after a fuel-burning water heater emitted carbon monoxide
- "Had Hugo and Laura been adequately informed and/or warned about the dangerous condition of the Airbnb Property, they would not have stayed at the property," the complaint alleged

Laura Esperanza Morales sensed something was wrong on the morning Feb. 25, 2025, when she didn't receive her normal morning messages from her adult children.

At the time, Hugo and Laura — who "did everything together," according to their mom — had traveled from El Paso, Texas, to Mexico City and checked into an Airbnb property for what was supposed to be a three-day trip to see their favorite band, Kings of Convenience.

The getaway was special for another reason, too. "It was the first time that they were traveling together, just them two," Morales recalls. "They were so happy about going to this concert."

Morales had been in regular contact with Hugo, 35, and Laura, 37, which made it even more concerning when she didn't hear from them, even after she texted them a short time later to see what was going on.

When repeated attempts to reach them failed, she contacted her ex-husband, who lives in Mexico. Through a friend's help, he initiated a wellness check at the property, which ended in horrible news: both Hugo and Laura had been found dead.

Over a year later, Morales is determined to fight for justice.

"Every day is the same," Morales tells PEOPLE in Spanish, with her attorney Jose Becerra translating for her. "Every day is filled with sadness, depression, and also anger."

On Feb. 6, Morales filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Airbnb in California Superior Court.

According to the complaint, obtained by PEOPLE, Mexican authorities said that on Feb. 24, 2025, Hugo turned on the hot water to shower at the apartment, which activated a fuel-burning water heater improperly installed in the laundry room.

"As a result, the water heater emitted dangerously high levels of carbon monoxide into the property," the complaint claimed. "As the toxic gas accumulated, both Hugo and Laura were slowly poisoned."

The complaint alleged that the listing "made no mention of the fuel-burning water heater, offered no safety guidance, failed to alert them of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, and failed to advise them of the critical need for a functioning carbon monoxide alarm."

"Had Hugo and Laura been adequately informed and/or warned about the dangerous condition of the Airbnb Property, they would not have stayed at the property," the complaint alleged.

When reached for comment, an Airbnb spokesperson told PEOPLE the company's "thoughts remain with the Morales family and their loved ones in the wake of this tragedy."

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Along with obtaining justice for Morales, attorney Becerra says they hope the lawsuit can create meaningful change.

"To this day, Airbnb does not require its hosts to install basic life-saving devices such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors," he alleges.

On their website, the company says they "[strongly urge](#) hosts to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms...test them regularly, and make sure their listing description is up to date."

"What we wanna do is bring attention to this issue," adds Becerra, "hopefully to enact policy change within the corporation and to spread awareness to future travelers who do business with Airbnb so they can hopefully protect themselves, and if necessary, bring their own carbon monoxide detectors with them when they travel and lodge with Airbnb."



Laura Esperanza Morales (C) with her children Laura and Hugo.
Credit: Jose Becerra

In addition to his mother, Hugo leaves behind an 8-year-old young daughter.

"It was only about a month ago that she began talking about them for the first time," says Morales. "She knows that they're no longer here. She spent a lot of time just in her dad's room, just holding onto his belongings, his things, in a state of shock.

"She's in therapy, but overall, this loss has greatly affected her," her grandmother adds.

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Morales, who says Airbnb had not reached out to her since the tragedy, hopes that by speaking out, she can help ensure what happened to Hugo and Laura doesn't happen to other travelers.

"I want future Airbnb travelers to be very careful," she says, "and to truly know where they are staying, and what they may need to bring with themselves to, to stay safe."