

# Fort Lupton toddler dies after ingesting small battery

By [Chris Casey](#)

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Friends and family of Elaina Redding will pray tonight during a Rosary service for the 2-year-old girl who died from a hemorrhage caused by a button-sized battery that lodged in her esophagus two weeks earlier.

Elaina is the daughter of Donna Ryan, 21, and A.J. Redding, 23, of Fort Lupton.

“She was amazing,” Ryan said Wednesday. “She was helpful, and she was a little sweetheart.”

Ryan said the couple doesn’t know how Elaina got the battery in her mouth the morning of May 2, but they later determined it probably came from an electronic game. The girl started clutching her chest around 9 a.m., saying it hurt. They took her to Platte Valley Medical Center in Brighton, where X-rays revealed the problem later that morning, Ryan said.

“We didn’t even know she had swallowed anything until we got the X-ray,” she said.

Doctors at the center said the girl should go to Children’s Hospital in Aurora. That evening, doctors at Children’s performed an endoscopy and removed the battery. Elaina remained hospitalized until May 6, Ryan said.

“We were told to come back in two weeks for a followup,” Ryan said. “They gave us some prescriptions for her, and they let us take her home.”

The prescriptions were supposed to prevent acid reflux and coat her digestive tract. Ryan said she gave her daughter the medication as prescribed. She said Elaina didn’t show any signs of pain.

The couple had been living with Ryan’s parents at the time Elaina swallowed the battery. They moved in with Redding’s mother, who also lives in Fort Lupton, a few days later.

On May 20 after breakfast, Elaina came out of the bathroom saying she was having problems, Ryan said. Ryan went to the bathroom with her, then went out to check on her younger son, Nathaniel, in his high chair in the kitchen. Ryan immediately returned to the bathroom and found Elaina laying on the floor where she had coughed up blood.

Ryan rushed her to Platte Valley Medical Center, and from there, Elaina was taken by ambulance back to Children's Hospital.

She received an IV in the emergency room and remained stabilized, Ryan said. After being moved to another hospital room, Elaina began coughing up blood in late afternoon. She was stabilized and taken to the intensive care unit. Elaina suffered another fit of coughing late that night and hemorrhaged to death about 2 a.m. May 21.

"They said she was bleeding faster than they could put blood in," Ryan said.

An autopsy performed by the Weld County Coroner's Office determined Elaina's death was accidental, coroner Marcia Vincent said Wednesday. The girl, who was 2-1/2, bled to death of esophageal hemorrhage due to erosion of her esophagus and aorta.

## **Battery danger**

Each year, more than 3,000 people in the United States accidentally swallow button batteries of the variety used in watches, hearing aids, calculators and electronic games, according to the National Capital Poison Center in Washington.

The center's Web site said the batteries usually pass through the body, but sometimes they get caught in the esophagus. The batteries can leak causing chemical burning or emit an electrical current that can pass through tissue and generate acid.

What to do if anyone swallows a battery, according to the National Capital Poison Center:

- 1) Immediately call the 24-hour National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline at (202) 625-3333.
- 2) If available, provide the battery identification number (from the package or from a matching battery).
- 3) An X-ray must be obtained immediately to be sure that the battery has gone through the esophagus into the stomach. Do not wait for symptoms to develop before getting an X-ray. If the battery remains in the esophagus, it must be removed immediately. Batteries lodged in the esophagus can cause severe burns in two hours.

## **Services for Elaina**

A rosary service for Elaina Redding will be at 7 tonight at St. Williams Church, 1035 Fulton Ave. in Fort Lupton. A funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Williams Church.