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Relatives take the stand

Agency told toddler was being abused

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — A little more than a week before Kassidy Bortner died, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services received a report the toddler was being abused.

During the fourth day of testimony in the trial of the man who allegedly beat Kassidy to death between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9 of last year, a case worker from the Rochester office of the Division of Children, Youth and Families testified to being alerted Nov. 1, 2000 of an anonymous report alleging bruises on Kassidy's face and neck.

Chad E. Evans, 30, faces one

☆ **Abused**
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VICTIM'S AUNT ON THE STAND
— Defense attorney Mark Sisti questions Jennifer Conley about a photograph of her bed during the Chad Evans murder trial in Strafford County Superior Court on Friday. In the photo at right, Kassidy Bortner's grandmother, Jacqueline Conley, sheds tears as her daughter, Jennifer, testifies.

Craig Osborne/ Staff photographer



Kassidy's aunt says bruises began after child lived with Evans

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — Emotions ran high as Kassidy Bortner's aunt and uncle both testified in court Friday that the toddler never had bruises before living in her accused killer's home.

Chad E. Evans, 30, of 191 Milton Road in Rochester was present for the fourth day of testimony in his murder and assault trial, watching the morning's testimony unfold with attorney Alan Cronheim at his side.

Proceedings began shortly after 9 a.m. as Evans' other attorney, Mark Sisti, resumed his cross examination of F. Jefferey Marshall. Marshall, 26, lives in Kittery with Kassidy's 21-year-old aunt Jennifer Bortner Conley. The pair repeatedly baby-sat for the child in the weeks before her death. When Bortner began her job at a nearby clothing store the week the 21-month-old died, Marshall watched the child for at least an hour each day.

Kassidy's mother, 19-year-old Amanda Bortner, faces two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly failing to

protect Kassidy from Evans' abuse and for failing to seek proper medical treatment for the child's many injuries.

Evans appeared unruffled as Sisti resumed questioning Marshall. Marshall and Conley introduced Evans and Bortner and the four had been on friendly terms until Kassidy's death.

Sisti picked up essentially where he left off with Marshall on Thursday afternoon, focusing on specific details including the timing and chronology of events, and how those details changed from Marshall's police interviews to his testimony.

Marshall repeatedly told Sisti he was not sure of a lot of things he told police on the morning of Kassidy's death. He said he did not recall telling Kittery Detective Steve Hamel that Evans was to blame for Kassidy's injuries and could not be sure the order in which he tried to revive Kassidy and called for help when he realized the child was not breathing.

Sisti asked Marshall if he was imply-

☆ **Aunt**
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