

Defense rests its case in Chad Evans' trial

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOVER — Chad Evans' lawyers rested their case Monday in the trial over whether he killed his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter, Cassidy Bortner.

Closing arguments were to begin this morning.

Evans, a former member of the Keene Board of Education, did not testify during the trial. His lawyers called only one witness, a physician who testified that the fatal injury was caused before the child was found dead.

The defense contends Cassidy's baby sitter was responsible for the child's most serious injuries.

Evans, 30, is charged with second-degree murder and assault. He was living with Cassidy's mother in Rochester when the girl died in November of last year at a relative's home in Kittery, Maine.

The child's mother, Amanda Bortner, 20, is charged with child endangerment. Prosecutors say she knew about the abuse but did not try to stop it. She

will be tried later.

On Monday, the defense called its only witness, Dr. Michael Baden, a forensic expert from New York.

"I think that Cassidy Bortner died as a result of multiple inju-

ries over a period of time, with the final injuries occurring shortly before she was found dead," Baden said.

He said the critical injury was inflicted "minutes to an hour" before her death, he said.

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