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Evans' probation trial again postponed

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS

Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — A probation violation trial for a former Milton Road man who murdered his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter in 2000 has again been postponed.

A Rochester District Court clerk confirmed Feb. 19 that Chad E. Evans' probation violation trial, which had been scheduled for Feb. 20, has been continued to an unspecified date while he continues to await sentencing on his murder conviction.

In December, a Strafford County Superior Court jury convicted Evans, 30, of second-degree murder, multiple counts of assault and endangering the welfare of a child in connection with the death of Cassidy Caitlyn Bortner.

Kassidy's mother, 20-year-old Amanda Bortner, lived with Evans at his 191 Milton Road residence in Rochester for about three months before the toddler's death on Nov. 9, 2000.

Evans' probation violation charge stems from a prior charge of domestic violence against him. When Evans was arrested in connection with Cassidy's death on Nov. 16, 2000, he was serving a one-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to assaulting his former wife, Tristan Evans.

When Evans was placed on probation for pleading guilty to the domestic violence charge against his former wife in March 2000, he signed court documents stating he would remain "arrest-free."

In arguing their client had not violated his probation before the murder trial, Evans' attorneys said he should not have his probation revoked for an arrest because the validity of the

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to Kittery, Maine, early that morning and left the child with her sister's boyfriend before going to work at a nearby clothing store. The toddler died within hours of being left at the residence, according to court documents.

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Bortner has been charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child for her alleged conduct on the day Cassidy died and for allegedly failing to protect the child from Evans' abuse in the months leading up to her death.

Evans' probation violation trial had been scheduled for last April. However, it was postponed until the completion of the murder trial after prosecutors and Evans' attorneys agreed to postpone the probation violation trial until the murder trial was complete because the facts of the probation violation case were essentially the same that would be used to prove the murder case.

Evans has been held at the Strafford County House of Corrections since August 2001 after a Strafford County Superior Court judge ruled he violated his bail conditions by living with Bortner for about eight months after his arrest.

Evans could face up to life in prison on the second-degree murder conviction. He is scheduled to be sentenced March 21 at Strafford County Superior Court.