

January 23, 2011

Mr. Sean McDonald  
WMUR-TV  
100 S. Commercial St.  
Manchester, NH 03101

Mr. McDonald,

Thank you very much for coming up to interview me at the prison on Wednesday, 1/19/2011. I meant to tell you how much I enjoyed your piece on Dennis Kowlawski last week. I've always had a real interest in business and at one point, prior to my incarceration, I had some Tyco Stock in my portfolio. Unfortunately as often happens to me when I meet people for the first time, I got nervous and tongue-tied.

You were well prepared and asked some very difficult questions. I appreciate your thoroughness and skepticism, as I believe that is how many people view claims such as mine. I am fortunate to have found, as many open-minded people as I have that are willing to dig a little deeper when things don't make sense. Hopefully there are more out there.

I realize our interview is complete but for my own piece of mind and clarification purposes, I would like to elaborate on a few of the questions you asked, as I may not have given clear answers.

You asked about the lie detection test that I took and we spoke about it in detail – but there was one fact that Morrison recently discovered from the police investigation notes from the Kittery Police Dept the day Cassidy died that you might find interesting. The police had asked one person to take a lie detection test almost immediately and had the word “pending” next to two others. It turns out the person they asked was scheduled to take one, but then refused. The only person they never asked was me – the man they were “sure” was responsible. Strange isn't it? I took the test and passed. Skeptics have questioned how accurate such test are I wonder what would the reaction be if I had failed? Passing should count for something.

You asked if I had anger issues. To which I replied, “I've always considered myself a great communicator in a business setting but I've learned that I am inept communicating at times when I became emotional which leads to bad choices”. While this is all true, I didn't really answer your question, which quite honestly, I hadn't really thought much about, so I was caught off guard. I would say it is a fair assessment to characterize me as struggling with anger at times. Anger is a natural emotion that I didn't always handle in constructive ways. I don't believe, however, that every person that struggles with anger is destined to become a child abuser anymore than every alcoholic is destined to drive a motor vehicle intoxicated.

You asked if I grabbed Cassidy's cheeks out of anger – I replied, “I don't believe in corporal punishment. I didn't hit, spank or slap Cassidy. My major form of discipline has always been eye contact and explanation. Cassidy struggled with eye contact at times and it was something I wasn't used too because if I ever said, to my son, ‘Look in Daddy's eyes’ he would immediately stop and listen”. In thinking more about your questions I think frustration at times is a better characterization than anger. I feel horrible that I ever caused bruises on Cassidy's cheeks.

To this day we have no answers as to why Cassidy bruised so easily. My roommate at the time, Travis Hunt, made a statement to the police that he observed Cassidy fall (as we discussed), without putting her hands out and she'd bruise very quickly after the fall. Having this knowledge, observing similar things ourselves, and hearing excuses that seemed plausible at the time, left us dismissive thinking "all kids get hurt" when we saw a bruise here or there. I wish we had the wherewithal to investigate the bruising. I must reiterate bruises to Cassidy cheeks had NOTHING to do with her death. I'm confident that any medical examiner would verify this.

You shared some of the details in my State Supreme Court decision – specifically that I threw Cassidy into walls, grabbed her face two times a week, called her a retard and a fucking bitch, etc. and asked if these were true? I believe I replied, "This is the Court decision against me, they aren't facts. The court is saying that a juror could have found them as facts because someone testified to them at trial. If the court had ruled in my favor, they would have provided facts that supported me". I had not read that decision in at least half dozen years. And had forgotten all the inflammatory statements in such a condensed area. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

Your follow up question to this was something to the effect of why would anyone say these things if they were not true? I think I replied something to the effect of "In Amanda's case there was an extreme amount of psychological pressure, manipulation, accusing her, etc. Amanda has stated this since almost immediately after her police interviews and consistently for the past 10 years". Then I went onto discuss the phenomenon of the Stanford Law Review Article. I've enclosed a portion for your review.

I'd also like to point out another reason that someone might say things that aren't true: to focus the attention on to someone other than themselves. I know you are extremely busy but I urge you to read or at least skim through the initial police interviews in Kittery for Nov 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Not all of them – Jeff, Jennifer, and Amanda were the first to arrive, start there. Someone was feeding the police a lot of "facts" that they would then run in and verify with an overwhelmed, distraught, 18 year old mother who just found out her baby died. I implore you to look at the chronology again on the website for Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Look how quickly the police started making statement to various people in deciding that they knew I was responsible. This was a complicated case. Choosing me as the suspect so quickly and then looking no further was irresponsible especially when they found most of the facts I was providing in my interrogation were proving to be true.

You asked, "You pled guilty to abuse of your wife you were found guilty of simple assault toward Amanda. Some would say that there is a pattern of abuse here – what do you say to this?" I'm not sure if I ever answered this question so I will now. I have certainly made my share of poor decisions in life and can understand why I would be a suspect, but the scope shouldn't have been narrowed so quickly. I realize that over 50% of men who fight with or abuse their spouses will also abuse their children but this isn't always the case and certainly not the case here. There are many that could verify seeing me be nothing but loving and patient towards children. I would think in this type of situation, you would want to evaluate the background of everyone involved and the lifetime of character they have displayed.

You quoted from Will Delker, his claim that I made excuses such as Cassidy would hurl herself into the corner, Cassidy fell a lot, and she fell off the trampoline etc. There were so many separate incidents combined into this question that I didn't know how to effectively answer. This is another example of having some elements of truth and others being blown out of proportion.

With regard to Cassidy hurling herself into the corner, I was trying to answer the police's question about instances where I had seen Cassidy hurt herself. It wasn't a situation where she regularly "hurled" herself into a wall. I was relaying one instance where we had given Cassidy a time-out for something and instructed her to go to the corner. As one might expect, Cassidy started crying hard as she ran to the corner. Just before reaching the corner in our bedroom Cassidy tripped over some laundry on the floor and fell into

the corner face first. Amanda and I went running to her pick her up. She got a large egg size bruise on her forehead. This is the only reason I was bringing it to the police's attention.

Regarding the trampoline – This is an example of a story I told based on an event that happened. It's a fact that Cassidy loved the trampoline and we often jumped with her. There was a single instance where I was jumping with her and I bounced a little too hard and she fell backward and almost off the trampoline. I quickly reached out and grabbed Cassidy's hand before she fell off. I did not catch her by the cheeks. This was a ridiculous story that I told because I was ashamed of grabbing her cheeks to get her attention. I relayed the same story to police during the interview because I knew that this action had NOTHING to do with Cassidy's death and I didn't want to avert the police attention away from finding out what had happened to Cassidy. In hindsight, this white lie proved very costly. Perhaps, if I had been more forthright with the police about my actions, they may have questioned other people's finger pointing and motives. To reiterate – I never punched, kicked, choked, slapped, spanked, or threw Cassidy into walls and closet doors. These allegations are completely false. My only form of discipline consisted of eye contact (though sometimes forced) with explanation and time outs. Prior to Cassidy entering my life I had young sons that were always "Rough Housing". We often included Cassidy in our play. I can comfortably say I played far rougher with Cassidy wrestling, pillow bopping, spinning her around, tossing the kids on the bed of pillows, etc, than I ever disciplined her. I would willingly submit to any test to refute these accusations. On numerous occasions since her police interviews, Amanda has admitted that she said many of these things to get the police to leave her alone. Amanda felt pressured, angry towards me, and was lashing out when the police had convinced her I murdered Cassidy. Amanda has stated, "It was obvious the police wouldn't stop bugging me until I told them what they wanted to hear about Chad."

Aside from numerous happy photos and family and friends observations of me interacting with Cassidy, a school nurse of 30 plus years saw Cassidy crawl into my lap, lay her head against my chest, and cuddle with me just 3 ½ days prior to her death. The nurse has experience with many abused children in her career and stated, "these are not the actions I've seen from children toward their abuser" (particularly when there were others around that Cassidy could have sought comfort from, like my sister – Nicole who had been holding and playing with Cassidy all day).

I heard on numerous occasions that the state claimed to have overwhelming evidence of my guilt. The truth is **after an exhaustive 3-day search of my house, car and property there was zero physical evidence of abuse found. It is highly likely that with the type of abuse alleged there would have been evidence found if it in fact happened.** Several years ago Cyril Wecht, a world-renowned forensic pathologist, reviewed the autopsy results and agreed with Dr. Baden, that science doesn't support me killing Cassidy. Dr. Wecht's report at the very least shows how there is nothing clear cut or overwhelming about the states "evidence".

It's quite obvious we didn't do enough for Cassidy. However, we NEVER withheld medical treatment or tried to hide Cassidy from the general public as was alleged at trial. We have plenty of evidence to show that Amanda took Cassidy everywhere with her and we tried getting Cassidy into 16 different day cares. Cassidy also went to the doctor as late as mid-September. Whenever we observed something that we believed Cassidy should go to the hospital to get checked out, she showed marked improvement immediately after so we never believed it to be serious. In hindsight, it became evident from the interview breakdowns that Cassidy's behavior and health significantly deteriorated after the accident where she fell out of Jeff Marshall's truck window and landed on her head, a fall of over 4 feet. I certainly wish for Cassidy's sake that I had more common sense and had taken her to the doctors after she returned from that 2-day stay with Jeff Marshall. I didn't know then what some of the symptoms we were seeing could have indicated.

There is a "Letters from NH State Prison" section on the website where I go into detail about the life I shared with Cassidy, and Amanda, as well as my son. There is also a comment section. My goal is to answer anyone's questions. I'd answer them online or they could write me direct if they prefer. The real shame would be curiosity without asking. This leads to judgment without knowledge. I just want people to know the truth. Of course, I expect many to be skeptical of my claim but I am confident that if they are willing to invest a little time and "peel away the layers", they will come to the truth or at the very least the need for a reinvestigation.

Again, you asked a lot of well thought out questions. If there are any others you have or facts I can confirm for you in the future please do not hesitate to ask. It doesn't have to lead to a story. Your own curiosity is worthy of an answer.

In closing, you asked me what prison was like: one thing that surprised me about prison is that not everyone claims they are innocent. Prior to coming here, I assumed everyone did. It's one of those society stereotypes. I'm enclosing a survey by the RAND Corporation that shows only approximately 15% of inmates claim innocence. The survey opened my eyes. As I said in our interview, I was never very open-minded as a free man. It's ironic that this is what I need most from people now.

Thank you again for your time,