

Transcript of the 9 November 2000 interview of Chad Evans, with 2010 comments by Chad.

(rev. 13 March 2011)

In June 2010, Chad reviewed the transcript and has annotated it with comments which are *[bracketed in italics]*.

He wrote the preface below for readers of the annotated interview.

[Thank you for reading my original police interrogation. I've added these italic comments on 6/8/10, and in subsequent letters. It's been nearly 10 years since I had this original police interview and it was the first time I've read the interrogation since then. Reading this has brought back all of the raw emotions and feelings associated with the original police interview. I ask you to keep these incredible emotions in mind as you read.

Approximately three hours before my interrogation began, I had learned that Cassidy had died around Noon. Not only was I trying to process this incredible loss, but I also gradually understood that I was being accused of causing Cassidy's death.

You cannot imagine the incredible police pressure unless you've sat through one of these interrogations. The comments I've added are the words or thoughts I wish I had said or expressed, or would say today as I'm no longer in a state of shock about Cassidy's tragic death. Please consider watching and listening to video of the full interrogation by clicking "Part 1" and "Part 2" on the website.

Thank you for your interest in this case and my claim of wrongful conviction. Chad Evans]

Note: the text of the original transcript is presented here through OCR (Optical Character Recognition), unchanged, without correcting any but the most obvious typos and the OCR mistakes.

MAINE STATE POLICE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION I
TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

1480

INCIDENT #: MCI-00-216

CASE: Manslaughter (KASSIDY BORTNER)

NAME: EVANS, CHAD

DOB: 10-15-71

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: 603-335-7966

EMPLOYMENT:

OFFICER: Det. LANCE MCCLEISH & Det. RICHARD LECLAIR

DATE: 11-9-00 TIME START: 1910 hrs.

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Kittery Police Department

Approved: *MJS*

Parties Present During Interview:

CE: CHAD EVANS

LM: Det. LANCE MCCLEISH, Maine State Police

RL: Det. RICHARD LECLAIR, Maine State Police

MS: Sgt. MATTHEW STEWART, Maine State Police

MS: CHAD this is LANCE MCCLEISH.

LM: LANCE MCCLEISH.

MS: This is RICK LECLAIR.

RL: How you doing CHAD, nice to meet you.

MS: They're detectives from the State Police and as I told you earlier we need to talk to you and ...

CE: Sure.

MS: ... get some information and these guys are the men to do it.

CE: All right.

LM: CHAD just have a seat right here if you would.

CE: Actually do I need to sit right at the moment? I've been sitting for two straight hours.

LM: Do you want to stand for a little bit?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Yeah we can do that, that's no problem.

CE: Drove two and a half hours to get here.

LM: Do you want anything to drink?

CE: Ah ...

LM: Other than what you go there.

CE: No, doing well.

LM: How about something to eat?

CE: No. No I didn't eat but you know something like this going on ...

RL: Here Lance do you want to grab that.

CE: I can't imagine eating right now.

CE: Oops I'm sorry.

LM: Ah we can you know whatever you want, if you want something to eat just name it. You know, we can get you whatever you want. You need to go to the bathroom, anything like that?

CE: No. I've, I've actually been going quite frequently here.

LM: Okay. You feel like you're pretty good right now?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay so ...

CE: I will have to go I'm sure.

LM: If you need something just speak up and say you want something. If you want to go to the bathroom or anything like that just let us know and you know we'll accommodate you, it's not gonna be a problem. But the reason why you're down here is obviously you know KASSIDY has, has died. And so, so what we need to do is is just kind of - we're talking to everybody you know that's involved and just trying to find out, you know what's going on. Just trying to get some background information.

CE: Uh, huh

LM: Just to get, you know the kind of dynamics and stuff like that so you know I don't want you to feel uncomfortable or anything like that, just strictly, just interviewing you know everybody that's kind of in her life is basically what we're doing. But one thing that we do have to do before we, before we kind of start talking here is that we have to read you something that's called Miranda. And basically that's, that's your rights. You know what I'm saying?

CE: Uh huh

RL: CHAD in Maine - You're from New Hampshire?

CE: Yeah.

RL: In Maine, in Maine Law we by, by statute we have to investigate all, all child deaths, the State Police.

CE: Okay.

RL: We go to the different towns and we come in and assist them with the investigation. We're involved in this and you know as, part of protocol when we interview people Miranda is read.

CE: So it's not like so you arrested somebody like me...

RL: You're not under arrest.

CE: No, no I mean like in New Hampshire - You know I watch too much TV like Homicide, shows like that, when they - I'll just read it or whatever?

RL: Huhuh. How far did you go along in school?

CE: I graduated high school and I took a few classes in college.

RL: Okay. You got, you got a good job right now.

CE: Yeah, a standing joke.

RL: Okay. I just got - Your name?

CE: CHAD EVANS.

RL: CHAD EVANS. Where do you live CHAD?

CE: I live on the Milton Road in Rochester.

RL: Milton Road in Rochester.

CE: Yeah.

RL: Do you play hockey?

CE: No, football.

RL: Football? You look familiar I spend a lot of time at the rink in, in Rochester.

CE: Oh really!

RL: Yeah.

CE: I just started taking my ahh, kids to teach him how to skate.

RL: Oh no kidding. Where did you play ball?

CE: Keene High and I went to - I tried out for a team in (inaudible). I was going to go and play in Adams.

LM: Yeah.

CE: But I'm a pretty small guy

LM: I played at the University of Maine.

CE: Did you really?

LM: Yeah I played ball there

CE: You're a big guy.

LM: I played in 89, we won the Yankee Conference that year. ..

LM: ... with MIKE BUCK, CARL SMITH all those guys. JUSTIN STYELZLIK plays for the Steelers now, so yeah.

CE: So how come you didn't go on?

LM: I got bad knees.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Bad knees and you know I had a couple of try outs. I tried out for the Philadelphia Eagles but...

CE: Really!

LM: ... I came, you know I didn't, didn't make it. But...

CE: Two of the guys I went to high school with went on to play professional for a while.

LM: Oh really! Where did they go?

CE: You ever hear of TROY WILKS? He graduated in 90, actually 87 from, from the school then he went to Iowa and on from there to, he played for a little bit for the Jets then he got cut and... . *[Troy was cut by the Patriots. It was another Keene alum, John Bosa, who played for the Jets. I confused them in the moment.]*

LM: No kidding. Yeah MIKE BUCK played for New Orleans for a while and got cut.

CE: Crazy.

RL: CHAD what's your date of birth?

CE: 10-15-71.

RL: 10-15-71?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Okay. How old are you? What does that make you?

CE: I just turned 29.

RL: 29 years old. And your phone number?

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CE: 603

RL: 603.

CE: 335.

RL: 335.

CE: 7966.

RL: 7966. And you're employed through?

CE: Collie McKoy Management Group.

RL: Okay. What is it?

CE: Sorry. Collie McKoy Management Group.

RL: Collie McKoy. Where are they out of?

CE: Ah Lincoln, New Hampshire. *[I said, "Windham." It was transcribed incorrectly.]*

RL: Okay. Do you have a work number or do you have a cell phone or anything?

CE: Yeah, yeah it's 603-674-8795.

RL: 8795?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Is that a company phone?

CE: Ah no it's my personal.

RL: It's your personal phone. Do you have a pager?

CE: Yeah.

RL: What's your pager number?

CE: 603

RL: Yeah.

CE: 492-7613.

RL: 7613. Okay. You went to ...

CE: I'm talking kind of low, sorry.

RL: No, I understand. You went to high school?

CE: Yeah.

RL: You graduated from high school?

CE: Yeah, Keene High.

RL: Did you - You said you took some college classes?

CE: Yeah I just I (inaudible) through like Keene State. *[They were actually a Franklin Pierce affiliate and also college credits from McDonald's training schools. I don't know if it was nervousness of the situation, having two seasoned police officers interviewing me, or if I was feeling intimidated by them that I would say this. They had a presence about them that made me feel they were looking down on me, especially LeClair. It happened many times throughout the interview.]*

RL: Yeah.

CE: And I took a few course, it was money management type stuff.

RL: What's your, what's your job with ...

CE: McDonald's?

RL: Yeah.

CE: I - I'm an area supervisor.

RL: Okay and what does that consist of?

CE: It means like I run, basically I run eight restaurants is what I do. I supervise ...

RL: Eight McDonald's?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Restaurants.

CE: There day to day operation.

RL: How many employees do you have under you? Do you have anybody under you or?

CE: Oh yeah. Well I have, you know I mean obviously the restaurant managers answer directly to me and in total I have about 200 employees.

RL: Okay. Two hundred employees. Do you - Have you had anything to drink in the, in the last - as in alcohol?

CE: Cough syrup that's about it.

RL: Cough - How long ago did you have cough syrup?

CE: Right before I came in here.

RL: How much, how much, I mean did you drink the whole bottle or?

CE: No.

LM: Do you remember what it was?

RL: A teaspoon.

CE: Vic's.

RL: Vic's, okay.

LM: You taking it, pretty regularly you taking that?

CE: Yeah, well I got - Not really. I just got some today. I haven't been feeling well.

RL: So you have any, are you on any medication, prescriptions anything like that?

CE: Ah no. The only thing I take is Zenedrine.

RL: What's that?

CE: And Protein Powder. Zenedrine is a - I'm kind of into power lifting.

RL: Okay.

CE: And it's, it's basically a thing to kind of help cut the fat and ...

RL: Okay. Okay.

LM: It's kind of like Hydroxy Cut.

CE: You got it. Just like it makes you shake and shit.

LM: It's got like Effedrine in it and ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: Yeah, yeah I've done that.

CE: Yeah.

LM: It's good stuff.

CE: Yeah.

LM: It works real well.

CE: Yeah it does, I like it.

RL: Are you currently active physically, working out and stuff?

CE: Yeah, yeah.

RL: Where do you work out?

CE: My friend, my best friend, BRUCE AUBE's house.

RL: Oh okay. Do you have your own gym?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Okay. Okay before we go any further, like I told you Miranda Warning okay. We are Law Enforcement Officers. We're gonna ask you some questions. Before we do so I have to explain your rights. Do you understand that?

CE: Yup.

RL: Okay. You have the absolute right to remain silent. Do you understand that?

CE: If I don't want to answer questions I say no.

RL: That's correct. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Okay. You have the absolute right to the advice of a lawyer before any questioning and to the presence of a lawyer here with you during questioning. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Okay.

CE: Do you think I need one?

RL: That's, that's totally up to, up to you. I mean you, like you said you don't have to answer questions.

CE: Yeah.

RL: You can stop at anytime. You have the right to stop answering, excuse me. You have the right, the absolute right to the advice of a lawyer before any questioning and to the presence of a lawyer here with you during questioning. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Okay. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be furnished to you free before any questioning if you desire. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah. (Inaudible) you can afford one or not ...

RL: If you decide to answer questions now with or without a lawyer present, you have the right to stop answering at anytime or to stop answering at anytime until you can talk to a lawyer. Do you understand that?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Now having those rights which I just explained to you in mind, do you wish to continue that, talking about it?

CE: Sure. *[I wanted to do whatever I could to help Cassidy just as I explained to the officers before entering the interview room. At this point I thought they were interested in truth. I had no idea how Cassidy died.]*

RL: Okay. McDonald's?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Get back to McDonald's.

RL: McDonald's is my favorite restaurant. How much money do you make with them?

CE: I make probably it will show I make 74,000.

LM: That will buy

RL: Good deal. Okay. We - we're investigating the death of KASSIDY. Tell us what went on the last day or so with, with KASSIDY?

CE: Um, just the last day or so?

RL: Oh you can, you can go back two weeks.

CE: Lets see. I'll just go back yesterday and if you want to know anything else you can ...

RL: Yeah.

CE: ... ask me.

RL: We'll, we'll interject. Yesterday being November, November 8.

CE: Yeah. Being Monday, was that Tuesday. [*"Yesterday" was actually Wednesday.*]

RL: Huhuh.

CE: Tuesday. Thinking about it. Just got up in the morning, had breakfast. Actually she, you know AMANDA was a little late so we put cereal in a baggie for her whatever. Went to JEFF'S house for the day because I had to work and AMANDA is working at Old Navy. [*I believe this was November 9 I was describing. The morning of the day Kassidy died.*]

RL: Okay. And JEFF just - JEFF being, what's his last name?

CE: MARSHALL.

RL: MARSHALL.

CE: JEFF's her well they're not really related yet but he's been going out with his [*Amanda's*] sister for a year.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: So any ways, went to - Ah so she went to JEFF's house and I - AMANDA was suppose to work till 8 and then, actually she was working 5 to 11. Her schedule got kind of screwed up I don't know. But I told her, you know JEFF didn't want to watch KASSIDY the whole time I guess, and I told her it wouldn't be a big deal I'd pick her up when I because I had to pick up KYLE, my son. *[Actually, the original plan was for Kassidy to just stay overnight at Jeff's but a day or so earlier, I offered to watch Kassidy because I didn't like the way care was going at Jeff's. I had no idea here that the police thought Kassidy was beaten to death so I wasn't needlessly trying to get Jeff in trouble.]*

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And, and so I - I picked her up. In the evening went to pick KYLE up, then we went to, well from there I talked with KYLE'S teacher for a minute, then we went home. I'm sorry I just - you know what keeps going through my mind right now is I keep flashing back to like you know coming in here and having the other detective or whatever ...

RL: Huhuh.

CE: ... just tell me that she was dead and it just like hey rewind, rewind, rewind. Because you know I mean last night fed them, her and KYLE and we were playing. I gave her a bath, gave KYLE a bath and put her to bed, I put KYLE to bed. I did her alphabet with her before she went to bed and now I get a phone call today telling me she's dead, you know I mean. *[I guess this is what shock is. I felt numb all over while talking to them. I had just kissed Kassidy good-bye for the day earlier that morning and now these officers were telling me she was dead. How could this be?]*

RL: Huhuh. It's hard. It's hard. Okay so you went to pick up KYLE?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Where does, where does KYLE (inaudible)

CE: He's, he's three. He goes to Christ Crossroad Kindergarten, it's a division of Tri-city Christian Academy in Somersworth. *[Tri-City is in Somersworth. It's an offshoot of Crossroads, which is in Dover.]*

RL: Huhuh. Who's, who's KYLE'S mom?

CE: TRISTEN, TRISTEN is my ex-wife.

RL: You, you picked KYLE up and you stayed and talked to the teacher?

CE: Yeah just for a minute. She was telling me about what KYLE is doing.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And then we went home. (Inaudible)

RL: You picked KASSIDY up before or after KYLE?

CE: I picked her up, I picked her up and then I went to get KYLE.

RL: Okay. How was KASSIDY when you picked her up?

CE: (Inaudible) I've been sitting and thinking about things that, kind of feeling guilty like maybe I could of prevented things if I had just taken her to the hospital.

RL: What happened?

CE: She just was acting funny. You know I don't even know if I want to continue. I do but I don't. I don't want to like, I don't know anything so I don't want to get...

[I was torn. Cassidy wasn't acting like her normal self when I picked her up from Jeff's the previous night. But I didn't know with the shock of things if I was just being paranoid. I thought Jeff might have done something, but I didn't want to accuse him if he hadn't.]

RL: Huhuh.

CE: ... anyone in trouble. You know first AMANDA didn't give me her car seat, she didn't leave it at, at JEFF'S house so I had to strap her in the back seat which I'm, I'm probably gonna get a ticket for telling you guys this because it's against the law.

RL: No we're not gonna give you a ticket for that.

CE: But I just strap her in because I had to get KYLE, the school closes at six. I didn't have time to go buy one or anything so I strapped in. But like JEFF brought her out to me out to the car, he has this big feddish about seeing the house or something, and I just grabbed her and put her in the car. And I was driving down the road and she wasn't talking, but she's kind of a quiet kid. Like my sister spent the weekend with her and she spent six hours straight with her and KASSIDY sat in the chair the whole time, didn't move, didn't, you know which is kind of weird for a little baby to do you know. Not to be all over. *[Approximately 2 weeks prior to her death Cassidy came home from Jeff's with two large eggs on her head. He told Amanda that Cassidy fell out of the truck cab window and landed on her head in his driveway. Ever since that time Cassidy's 'normal' was off. She had her moments still when she was very playful, but that Sunday, prior to her death, she just wanted to be held and cuddled. My sister, Nicole didn't spend "the weekend" with Cassidy, as I had taken Cassidy to Nicole's home in Belmont only on Sunday. I don't know why I said "weekend." Cassidy spent most of that day cuddled up in Nicole's lap, and played a little, before climbing into my lap, and for lunch, which is when Nicole's mother-in-law, and school nurse, saw us together.]*

LM: Sure ...

CE: But I look back and I was driving up on the Spaulding Turnpike and I looked back in my car she's being extra quiet. And she's just sitting there like leaning forward like this, like where the on the seat belt. I'm like what the hell is wrong with her. And like she was. kind of drooling, which she doesn't usually drool unless she's cutting a tooth or something. I'm like what the hell. So actually I - then I called JEFF up on the phone. I said, you know I was kind of joking when I said this I said "What the hell did you do, beat this kid or something?" And he, he started laughing or whatever and he said "No why?" And I'm like I don't know she's acting strange like laying against the seat and whatever. And he, so any way he said you know whatever so I just was like all right. "Well I just was pretty cautious after that wanted to watch her, you know what I mean. *[I wasn't joking when I called Jeff. I'm still attempting to protect him here even if I felt he wasn't good with Cassidy and had done some stupid things, malicious things with her/to her. I had a hard time believing he could have killed her.]*

CE: Because she's not, you know ...

LM: Sure yeah

CE: You know. So I'm like all right whatever. So then I picked KYLE up, brought her home, and I, I started feeding KYLE. He wanted something different and she wouldn't, she wouldn't I tried - I mean her grill cheese she wouldn't eat whatever. I was like what the hell. So I gave her a banana and she mowed it, half of it and then didn't want the rest which was kind of *[strange]* because she's got a really good appetite for a baby that young. So I thought it was a little strange. But any way so she ate her banana or whatever and then. You know I fed her, fed KYLE, then we went upstairs, and you know I played with - It's hard because you know KYLE is a boy he's three and she's you know 20 months a girl you know. So they don't like to do the same things so I tried separating them to do different things with her.

LM: If he's anything like your size I'm sure he's ...

CE: Yeah he's a tank you know.

LM: Sure.

CE: But he's, hopefully be tall.

LM: Yeah.

CE: But yeah he's very physical.

LM: Sure.

CE: He's real aggressive. But any ways so you know I played with him for a few minutes and then I go play with her and then you know him and then her. One of the things that's like she is - JEFF I don't know if you guys met JEFF yet or anything, he's kind of a big guy, about your size but heavy set. You know about - probably 240 or whatever. He stepped on her the other day, like on her foot. So she's having a hard time walking. And so like what I eventually I would just carry her around, you know what I mean?

LM: Huhuh.

CE: She doesn't like to walk any way she likes to be held. But usually I don't want to baby her, you know I make her walk do her thing but she was hurting so I carried her from her room. *[I also wanted her with me so I could keep an eye on her. I didn't like her behavior a bit earlier in the car. It worried me. I wanted her right with me, so I would know if something was wrong.]*

LM: Sure. Sure, no problem.

CE: Yeah. I think that was actually - Yeah. So we just pretty much, we played, did our thing and then my roommate came home probably at, I was probably home half, half an hour or so before he got there.

RL: Who's your roommate?

CE: His name is TRAVIS HUNT.

RL: TRAVIS HUNT?

CE: Yeah.

RL: And he lives with you?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Where does he sleep?

CE: I have four bedrooms in my house.

RL: Okay.

CE: And he has a, uh, kind of like a downstairs kind of apartment.

RL: Okay. 'What does TRAVIS do for work?

CE: He is an assistant manager at one of my restaurants. Been friends with him for about 10 years.

RL: Huhuh. When was the last time you saw him?

CE: What do you mean?

RL: When was the last time you saw TRAVIS?

CE: This morning he went to work.

RL: Okay. Did you talk to him since, does he know that KASSIDY

CE: Well I called. I don't think he knew that she was dead. *[I'm confusing thoughts here. I actually called Tristan who then called everyone. I believe I actually ran into Travis on my way to the Kittery Police Dept. I stopped by my office store at the Portsmouth McDonald's. Travis worked there as Jeremy's assistant manager.]*

RL: Okay.

CE: He might. I called my wife because TRAV, myself and a bunch of us we were suppose go do something tonight.

RL: Called your wife?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Your wife being?

CE: TRISTEN

RL: TRISTEN

CE: Well my ex-wife. *[Soon to be ex-wife. I didn't know until a few days after this interview that our divorce was final.]*

RL: Yeah what...

CE: That's just recently.

RL: What were you gonna do?

CE: Well usually on, on Thursday nights we go to Banana's in Portsmouth, have a few appetizers ...

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... whatever and then after that we go work out at my friend BRUCE'S house. Like I couldn't get a hold of BRUCE to tell her that I'd probably be late because I didn't know how long you guys were going to talk ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: or whatever. But I didn't feel like doing anything. You know she goes "What's the matter?" I mean we don't get along at all right now.

RL: And she's still gonna go to Banana's with you?

CE: No, no not her.

RL: Oh!

CE: No, no. She - All our - See we just recently split up. All our friends are mutual friends. I couldn't get a hold of them so I called her to see if she could get the message across because I didn't want to tie up your phones, you know. But yeah we still, we still talk and everything and we just - a lot of times don't get along about stupid things but. So anyway I told her. I started crying and she started crying, Oh my God.

RL: Now you said you called JEFF?

CE: Yeah, last night.

RL: Is JEFF the, the baby sitter?

CE: Well he wasn't actually.

RL: Yeah what's, what's that situation there?

CE: JEFF is AMANDA'S well soon to be brother-in-law.

RL: Sister's boyfriend.

CE: Yeah, there in you go. And - But he's been watching her because she hasn't been able like just checked with a couple day care she said she can't get in them yet. I get her into one and then she checked into one down here that had openings but it was too close to the road so she didn't want it. So JEFF, he's a landscaper... *[Again, I am rushing my thoughts. You cannot imagine how fast everything seems and slow at the same time. When I said, "I get her into one and then she checked into one." What's in my brain but unable to make it to my lips is that I tried to get Kassidy into one - Cross Roads, where Kyle goes, but because Kassidy wasn't potty trained, the director, Sue Edgar, couldn't take her.*

This is another perfect example of my mouth moving too fast for my mind to process. Run on sentences, leaving key words out, mistaking my facts. What I was trying to say is, "Amanda has been trying to get Kassidy into professional daycare and is on several waiting lists. Jeff has been watching Kassidy until a spot opens up. With schools starting back in September daycares traditionally fill up then. Trying to get in during months of Oct and November is tougher. I tried to get Kassidy into Kyle's daycare program at Crossroads Kindergarten but she wasn't old enough, which Mrs. Edgar, understanding our situation, was willing to make an exception on, However, Kassidy also wasn't yet potty trained and Mrs. Edgar couldn't make an exception for that. Amanda thought she found a daycare with an opening right in Kittery, but the daycare was too close to the road and the road was very busy so she didn't feel comfortable with that." It is so much easier to think and respond when you didn't find out about your child's death just hours earlier.

RL: Okay.

CE: this time of year he doesn't have a lot to do so he's been watching her.

RL: Okay. So the reason JEFF is watching her is because they, they can't get I mean day care is a problem. ..

CE: Right.

RL: Today is she on any waiting list or anything?

CE: To be honest with you, you know she just, she - we haven't been together all that long. I really, there's a lot of things that I mean are going through my head right now that I'm, that you know that I just don't know. But one of the things that you know she doesn't, we don't, I don't really tell her how to run her kid and I don't really, we did get into a ton of conversations you know I tell her how she should ... You know but I don't know her, like with my wife I guess is what I'm getting at is I followed up everyday. Like did you get this day care thing, have you done this and you know. With her I felt like I kind of raised one, one (inaudible) not raised but you know what I mean kind of, I don't want to do that again. *[Basically, with all this "mumbo jumbo" I am trying to give off an "air" of Amanda and I not being together for too long, but the reality is I was just embarrassed that I didn't know the answer to how many waiting lists Kassidy was on for day care.]*

RL: You already went through it. Let's go back to, to your relationship with what is it, AMANDA?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Yeah. How did you guys meet?

CE: We met, we met through JEFF.

RL: Through JEFF. Now were you and JEFF friendly through high school?

CE: Yeah. No, no, no I just met JEFF he, he is a landscaper for my restaurants.

RL: Oh really!

CE: Yeah. (Inaudible)

LM: How long have you guys been together?

CE: AMANDA and I?

LM: Yeah.

CE: Not very long. I mean I just met her I think it was July we went on a date to a concert. *[Actually, it was June 2nd.]*

RL: What concert?

CE: You would ask that. Sting. *[Incorrect transcription. I said, "Staind."]*

RL: What?

CE: A group called Sting It's like a .. . *[Staind]*

LM: Local group?

CE: No it's, well it's kind of local. They're, they're, they're a lot like Pearl Jam (inaudible)

LM: Oh yeah.

CE: I'm really into alternative rock.

LM: Sure.

CE: ... stuff.

LM: I listen to Limp Bizkit

CE: Yeah.

LM: Stuff like that.

CE: Right. They're a lot like that, yeah ...

LM: This is the stuff you listen to when you're working out.

CE: You got it. And that's what we listen to. But it was down at Hampton Beach though.

RL: Yeah. How did that, that relationship develop? I mean did you know what was going on in her life? Did she know that you were separated?

CE: Yeah, you know to be honest with you, I don't know, I mean the whole thing is so weird when I think about it. We, you know I met, I mean I've been friends with JEFF, I've been talking to him about kind of what happened in my life with my wife and you know he'd been talking. You know he had a similar situation with an ex-girlfriend and ...

RL: Huhuh.

CE: ... he just listened a lot. I mean I talked and talked and talked to everybody you know. It was a lot of things that happened in my marriage that were like, you know.

LM: Like what?

CE: Well working many hours a week and neglected the time and you know what I mean.

RL: Yeah but they - they like the money don't they?

CE: Yeah they do. And she didn't have a problem spending it. And didn't have a problem ...
[Tristan actually was very frugal. I was still bitter about our divorce, but I wish I hadn't said this. It wasn't very nice or true. I think I was trying to fit in with the officers about them liking money - "them" being wives.]

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... finding someone else I guess so, and you know that kind of stuff.

LM: Yeah.

CE: And we ...

LM: It happens you know.

CE: So we, we had a lot to talk about. But then he made a joke one day about something. I was at "Wal-Mart in Rochester and he was coming up, he was doing a job for me cleaning a patio or something. I said something like, got any hot chicks you see whatever and kind of joking with him. He said "Yeah I hooked you up with JEN'S sister." And I'm like really, you know and I was kind of joking. But then he's like - she's like "Yeah it's my younger sister." I'm like forget it you know because I'm, Christ I'm 28 you know. And this girl is you know, not even quite 20 yet. *[It was Jen who said, "Yeah, it's my younger sister." Jen was working with Jeff. I believe it was Jeff who told me separately that Amanda was 19 or 20. He probably knew she was really younger than that, as Jen was 19 or 20, and she is the older.]*

LM: Right.

CE: I wouldn't (inaudible) no way. JEFF is like "Ah come on just go out" you know bla-bla, she's a nice girl. I'm like all right, whatever. Let me think about it. He asked me again later and I said all right fine. We got tickets to the show, why don't we all just go to that. I said okay. Then we all went to dinner and he bagged out like he usually does, so just AMANDA and I went to the concert. And you know we had a great time. I mean, it was kind of awkward at first you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: Especially since I hadn't been really doing a lot of, probably dating or anything you know so. *[This wasn't really true. I had dated a lot in the previous month (May). I was finally coming to terms with the reality that Tristan and I were not going to work out. I guess I didn't really consider a month of dating after 4+ years with Tristan as a lot.]*

LM: get back in the swing of things.

CE: Yeah you know.

LM: Sure it is.

CE: After you get a divorce you don't think anybody wants you and you know.

LM: It's hard.

CE: Yeah. So.

RL: Are you divorced right now?

CE: Ah yeah, well it's not a final yet. But we had a hearing a week and a half ago. *[The hearing was actually longer than "a week and a half ago." As I said earlier, I was not aware that my divorce was final in early October until after this interview.]*

RL: Okay.

CE: You got to get your decree back or something for it to be official I guess.

LM: So you, you and AMANDA living together?

CE: No. Well, not really. See it's kind of odd. Like she ... *[Yes, we were living together. We actually had been living together since mid to late June. I was trying to downplay our status because Amanda was in the "Aspire" program from the State of Maine, and I didn't want her to get into trouble. This is a perfect example of how clueless I was. I had no idea that this was an investigation into Cassidy's murder and police ultimately thought I was responsible. I was worried about stupid, relatively trivial things like Amanda getting into trouble or me for lack of a car seat.]*

LM: What's going on with that.

CE: She - It's one, it's kind of a strange situation because like she's a nice girl and, and she's totally in love with me and I really like her a lot. But I'm so burnt from the last thing that ... *[Again, I was downplaying both to them and also to myself. I wish I had told them how much I loved Amanda, and how when I wasn't with her I couldn't wait to get back to her, Cassidy and Kyle; and how much Amanda just took my breath away. These men were strangers to me. It was unlikely that I would open up to them like this under any circumstance, let alone the circumstances of this interview.]*

LM: Uh, huh

CE: ... I'm very distant you know.

LM: (inaudible)

CE: And she's been staying with me an awful lot. Like she, you know at first we commute back and forth to see each other. And then like I'd go to her parent's house and she'd come down here, you know whatever. And then it got to the thing where she would just stay here, you know for like weeks at a time you know, and then go home for a few days and come back, and then go home. And my friend, BRUCE, recently gave her a job doing home computer stuff and they don't have a computer or something to use so she's been pretty much staying with me. Plus she lost her license for a speeding ticket or something so she didn't feel like driving. *[I was trying to be very noncommittal about Amanda living with me without outright lying. I wish I had known they felt Cassidy was murdered. I'm sure I wouldn't have been worried about such as the "Aspire" program.]*

If I recall correctly, the speeding incident happened prior to her being with me. I think the reason she may have lost it was not the speeding as much as it being an age related thing. I know in NH, if you get a certain amount of tickets under the age of 20, I believe, you lose your license for a month or something. I didn't drive her around. I believe it was when she was driving back and forth from her mom's to see me. This may have affected our decision for her to stay at the house more. (good excuse)]

LM: Oh yeah.

CE: But we've been talking recently about her you know, kind of getting a place and you know ...

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: No, no I own my house or whatever. But her kind of get an apartment because I don't really want an official...

LM: Right.

CE: ... move-in girlfriend, you know. She's a great person I just didn't know if I was ready for that. *[Amanda and I had discussed it at one point, but it was never serious. I wanted her and Cassidy to live with me, but I also understood we had moved quickly and my pending divorce situation was hard on her. If she needed her independence for a while I was fine with that too. Basically I was supportive of whatever Amanda wanted. If she wanted to leave for a bit, fine. I wanted her there, if she wanted to be there.]*

LM: Just got out of something like that.

CE: Yeah, you know what I mean. And I don't want to fall head over heels with somebody and then get burned again you know. *[My divorce was very hard on me. Amanda acknowledged this on many occasions. I loved Amanda, but I had a wall up. I was scared to death of getting my heart ripped out.]*

LM: Yeah. It's kind of nice to come home at night sit in your living room and watch TV without a whole lot of noise going on.

CE: Right. *[I don't know why I agreed with this. I had several months of this quickness after Tristan left and nights that I didn't have Kyle and Brent. I absolutely hated it! I loved having a house full of hustle & bustle. I've never enjoyed being alone.]*

LM: I know where you're coming from totally.

RL: How would you describe KASSIDY'S health?

CE: Health?

RL: Health? As a, as a baby, I mean you've raised how many kids?

CE: Ah well one and a half. I have a three year old son and the other son is my stepson.

RL: Okay.

CE: The three of 'em get together.

RL: Now does - You have KYLE?

CE: Yeah.

RL: That's - Is that through you and TRISTEN?

CE: Huhuh.

RL: Okay. And then the other?

CE: And it was TRISTEN'S son.

RL: Okay. And who's the older?

CE: BRANDON. TRISTEN'S son ... BRANDON [*Transcriber error. I said, "Brent."*]

RL: Okay.

CE: ... from a previous relationship.

RL: Okay. And how would you describe the health of - of KASSIDY?

CE: You know honestly I wouldn't say - Healthy wise she got sick a lot like colds and things like that. But you know the, the other day I mean this is a, God I mean I don't, I'm kind of trying to pick my words carefully because like I don't want it to go back to AMANDA and tell her I kind of said this thing or whatever. But I was actually talking to TRISTEN, who is a whole a weird situation in itself like she wanted nothing to do with me for the longest time. Now I got a girlfriend and she's like over the house all the time and doesn't really want anything to do with me but you know, wants to make her, it's her roost I guess you know.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: But TRISTEN said to me the other day, you know I mean she, she just looked, was looking at KASSIDY and she said every time she sees, ask if she (inaudible). She goes I'm not trying to be mean or anything but is she like retarded? And I'm like I don't know TRISTEN. I mean she doesn't really talk a lot, doesn't really you know she just doesn't seem ...

LM: Sure.

CE: ... developed a lot for a kid.

LM: Her age.

CE: Right.

LM: Yeah.

CE: I mean sometimes she goes into things where she'll go forever just blabbing away talking, not really saying but talking and whatever. But then other times she'll just sit there and like zone out, like weird. *[And still other times Cassidy seemed so smart, speaking clearly, identifying objects and colors, counting, doing alphabet, etc.]*

LM: Has she ever been you know diagnosed with anything? *[I wish this had been looked into. A lot more is known now about things like autism today. Cassidy was very bright, but she had several symptoms which I now understand can be associated with autistic children. Then again, this may be like the medical student who wonders what he or she is suffering when reading a medical text.]*

CE: I don't know.

LM: Or is she kind of, kind of the way she's always been since you've known her?

CE: Yeah.

LM: You've only obviously known her. ...

CE: Right I've only known for four months. *[Actually, a little over five months.]*

LM: Uh huh

RL: Has she been to the doctor or anything in the four months you've known her?

CE: She went once I think to - Yeah you know what, she's got, she's got a problem with her feet. And I didn't really notice it. My mother noticed it. *[Unfortunately, I wasn't very observant.]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: Told AMANDA to go get her checked. Because like she was walking inward. Like she's, she's the clumsiest kid you have ever met.

LM: .. Pigeon toe?

- CE: Yeah, sort of well it's not really. One foot, I don't know which one but one foot is kind of like that. The other foot is kind of straight.
- RL: Huhuh.
- CE: But I never really noticed until my mother pointed it out that you know, she's kind of dragging her ...
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: ... feet and always falling, you know my parents own and a pool in Keene and they were always worried because she's start running and the next thing you know she's taking a digger
- RL: Is she always taking diggers?
- CE: Yeah she's pretty, pretty clumsy.
- LM: She'd - she'd fall down a lot you're saying?
- CE: Yeah.
- LM: I just noticed ...
- CE: I'm trying to think like if she, you know if anyone has kids. KYLE at that age fell a lot. *[This seems confusing. What I was trying to say was she fell more than Kyle did at the same age, even though he seemed even more active.]*
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: But.
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: But you know what I mean, I'd say maybe a little more than the normal- walk into things you know.
- LM: Sure. Coffee tables and ...
- CE: Not that so much. It was like I have a glass table. *[We had a glass kitchen table that was about head height for Cassidy. She ran into that several times playing "Fetch" with our dog, Kato. In the living room, we had a glass table sitting right in front of the sofa. Several times Cassidy landed and did a face plant right into the table. She actually did it once while home with Travis and Amanda, several days before her death. Amanda and I finally smartened up and pulled the table out more, away from the sofa.]*
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: It was constantly, I mean running into it.
- LM: Oh really!

CE: I mean constantly.

RL: What was she hitting? I mean was it waist height or?

CE: No, well there's one that's waist height and a coffee table and which you can't even see the glass. I've done it myself a few times. As a matter of fact I got a nice one from it the other day. But I have a kitchen table that's, it's all glass and she's walked in that a few times.

RL: When was the last time you, you saw KASSIDY alive?

CE: This morning ...

TAPE #1 SIDE B

CE: AMANDA had to be to work at eight.

RL: AMANDA had to be to work at eight?

CE: Yeah. Probably - I'd say she dropped KYLE off at school for me because I had a report to do and so probably it must of been about 7:15, gave her a kiss, put her in the car whatever and she waved "bye-bye".

RL: Does she, does she talk?

CE: Not very well but she can say "bye-bye" very well. *[Kassidy said many words very well but did not talk in complete sentences. This is what I was trying to say here.]*

RL: Yeah.

CE: She's starting to put, she's starting to put words together.

RL: Huhuh. You know some kids develop at different, different ages. Was - Did mom do, do everything for her?

CE: She did a lot.

RL: Did she spoil her? She a spoiled kid?

CE: Well in some ways but not, you know I don't really know her family.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: But to listen to JEFF you know, JEFF seems like a little bit of a disciplinarian type you know. You talking to him he, he said that the family is kind of a little whacked and that they, he thought that they, baby the shit out of her. I guess she cried in the crib at night you know. They just automatically run and pick her up and what does that do, she's gonna keep crying ...

RL: Huhuh.

CE: You know and sometimes what you got to do is you know let a baby cry.

LM: Sure.

CE: It's the hardest thing in the world to do you know and. Because you know you want to just like, you know you don't if there's something wrong. *[You want to pick them up the minute they cry, but have to learn independence and how to entertain themselves a little. Otherwise, the second they are bored they will learn to whimper a little and know someone will pick them up.]*

LM: Kids are a little bit manipulative.

CE: Right.

LM: It gives them a little independence they start learning

CE: Right. But they need to learn to, hey if it's 9 o'clock at night it's bedtime and you need to show them.

RL: What was - What was the daily schedule of the baby? I mean roughly, up - get up in the morning

CE: You know I got to be honest with you I didn't really spend a ton of time around her because I work. *[I thought the cops were trying to trap me. If I knew her daily schedule then they would know I was fibbing about Amanda living with me, and she might get into trouble with the State of Maine for that "Aspire" program. That was going to help her pay for school. Cassidy was typically in bed by 8 p.m. and up anywhere between 7 & 8 p.m. This was some of my best 'alone' time with Cassidy. I would take her down and feed her breakfast. She'd wake up with those blue eyes piercing you and I'd say, "Want some cereal?" She'd smile and say, "Yesss" and climb into my arms for the trip downstairs as Mom slept.]*

RL: Huhuh. Do you work Saturday and Sunday?

CE: Oh yeah.

RL: Do you?

CE: Yeah. I mean weeks, for the last two or three months I haven't worked Sundays but occasionally I'll do a report or something. *[My restaurants are very seasonal and during the summer I worked most Sundays.]*

RL: Humm. So what would a daily ...

CE: You knew she was up, well see AMANDA just got a job.

RL: Yeah.

- CE: So it's a little different. But before that you know a lot of times before I'd leave in the morning KASSIDY was still sleeping or I'd go in and wake her up. And on days like when AMANDA was gonna take KYLE to school for me or something. *[During the summer I left for work much earlier. Sometimes, I'd get her up just so I could have some time with her. She always woke up happy when she knew breakfast was minutes away.]*
- RL: Humm. What was - when she got up, how would she get up? Is she the type of child who would wake up crying every morning?
- CE: You know for the last - I've noticed that for the last month now that you bring that **up**. Every morning it seems like probably 4 or 5 o'clock she starts bawling and then comes in and crawls in bed with AMANDA and I. Not, not maybe two or three weeks you know. *[This was right around the time she fell out of Jeff's truck window.]*
- RL: Humm.
- CE: But I didn't know if she was getting the habit from KYLE because he does that all the time like too.
- RL: Right.
- CE: You know and I think it's just he wakes up, he starts screaming "daddy" you know.
- LM: He doesn't stay with you all the time though right?
- CE: No I have him four days a week.
- LM: Huhuh.
- CE: But - But most of the time she'd wake up pretty happy you know. I mean wake up and she'd be like, I'm like you, you want to eat. "Yeah". You know and ...
- LM: Huhuh.
- CE: Loves to eat, that kid.
- RL: What would you do with her, her meal?
- CE: Usually, usually, usually cereal. Actually AMANDA was giving me shit the other day because I went and bought them donuts again. She's like, no you're spoiling these two. I'm like yeah, they're kids they're suppose to be spoiled.
- RL: Huhuh, exactly. What about diapers? Would you change diapers?
- CE: Yeah I've done it a few times. Unfortunately I've changed my first shitty diaper from her this weekend. Let me tell you she's got a little shitter on, a little shitter. I never really was around her you know like when she shit. Sorry. *[I didn't mind changing her diapers, but Amanda was much better at it. It was like a six second pit stop for Amanda. If she was around, she changed the diapers.]*

RL: No I mean.

LM: If you can't say anything to us that we - won't offend us so.

CE: Usually when she'd do that she, AMANDA was there to change her. But usually right before, like a lot of times you know I'd given her a bath on the nights that, so I'd put a new diaper on her but. But I found out you know like after this weekend, actually my sister was there and it stunk so bad I couldn't talk her into changing it. And I found out why I'm glad I didn't have a girl: you know.

RL: Would AMANDA give her, give her a bath?

CE: Yeah. AMANDA has given both baths.

LM: Okay.

CE: Most of the time if I, you know I probably, I say I give her a bath. I probably give her you know five or six baths. But most of the time if I give her a bath it was, AMANDA was doing something with KYLE. And I was trying to make it an important thing that they do. Like she did a lot with KYLE.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: Like spin art and things like that. You know I both one of those spin art things.

RL: Oh okay. yeah.

CE: And the paint and whatever and. So she would be doing something like that with her and I think it was kind of good bonding time for them.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: You know and then so if I gave her bath or whatever and put her down, put her in (inaudible)

RL: How would you consider AMANDA as a mom?

CE: Good in a lot of ways.

RL: I mean she's a young mom.

CE: Yeah she's that's, that's one of her big down falls.

RL: Loves her babies.

- LM: If, if say KASSIDY or, or one of your boys is over the house and someone does something you know that's bad or whatever, who's usually the person to, to kind of discipline them or you know tell them that...
- CE: We, we both do. I mean she struggles with that a little bit because KYLE got a mind of his own and but I've made it very important that she's the one telling him a lot. Like what to do or whatever. And she actually caught me at something bad the other night. She was getting onto something and I did the mortal sin that I always said I would never do, meaning she was being a little bit of a hypocrite so I, you know like AMANDA don't yell at him. She's like "Oh that's good Chad, you just did that in front of him so now he's gonna ... "
- RL: Huhuh.
- CE: I'm like oh shit I'm sorry you know because. But we, I mean we, you know for the most part you know both of us we, I mean she's a lot of times, I mean a lot of times like with KASSIDY she'll say "no mama" or whatever and You'll know, so then I'd be like no KASSIDY you got to do what mom says or whatever. I'll pick her up. The big thing with me is eye contact --.....,
- LM: Humm.
- CE: Like I would say to my son, KYLE "look me in the eyes" because he's big enough to know it you know with her "look me in the eyes."
- LM: Does she was responding pretty well...
- CE: Yeah, oh yeah.
- LM: Does seem to get your point across
- CE: Oh yeah she's never, she's never really said no to me. She just said no to me once and I'm like well you're gonna be going time-out you know.
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: I don't put up with that. So she ...
- LM: Is that how you guys usually like when they get in trouble?
- CE: With KYLE we do time-out. With AMANDA - with KASSIDY, AMANDA a lot of time wants to bring her but, you know "bring her upstairs I don't want to listen to her cry".

Or you know she'd be like you know "go to your room" or whatever. And then I, we actually got in an argument one time because it was BRENT'S room. She saying "don't tell her it's her room" you know, I don't know I'm just kind of. ..

LM: Sure. Sure, totally.

CE: ... been anal about it because I don't want, you know I don't know the whole situation.

RL: It's, it's an awkward situation.

CE: Because you know the thing is guys, you know I mean nice girl and really, I really care all that deeply for her and I'm hoping things work out. But you know the big burning mistake that I made with my wife when she was you know that young and you know I've, I've read a lot and heard a lot from my friends that people change when they get older so I don't want to make that same mistake when they get 22, 23 and she decides she wants her independence or whatever. *[Again, I'm trying to downplay my relationship with Amanda. I couldn't see where the questioning was going, and was worried about her getting into trouble. At the same time I was battling myself because I was in love with a girl, and just a year earlier I was so hurt by my separation from Tristan that I vowed not to love again.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: Then you're back in the same boat. So I'm trying to like as much as I possibly can, which is hard to do you know.

LM: Yeah, I know it.

CE: Not get totally head over heels you know.

RL: Each kid has its own identity. I have, I have a bunch of kids at home ...

CE: Yeah.

RL: ... and I went four years without sleeping a complete night. I mean there's always ...

CE: Right.

RL: ... one of them crying. How would you describe your son, KYLE? Is he one to cry? Wake you up every night?

CE: Never before we got divorced. *[Actually, as an infant Kyle was very colicky.]*

RL: No, now he does?

CE: Now sometimes he does, not all the time but sometimes he wakes up.

RL: 'What about...

CE: (inaudible) he likes to sleep a little later or whatever so.

RL: What about KASSIDY?

CE: I mean really like I said in the last couple weeks I noticed that she would wake up. Like it was weird because sometimes like, usually I consider myself to be a pretty light sleeper but sometimes like she wakes up like that and I look over and there's AMANDA on the other side and she's right in the middle. I'm like how in the hell did you get there, you know.

RL: Huhuh, oh yeah!

CE: She just crawled right up.

RL: Is she - is she one to cry a lot?

CE: Yeah she - TRAV made that comment a few times. She's, she's you know.

LM: Does she cry, cry a lot?

CE: Yeah. Just, not really cry, whine you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: I mean she was a tough kid some things, you know that you think a kid would freaken bawl about...

LM: Huhuh. She just gets up and keeps on going.

CE: Yeah. But then if you know like she would had fits a lot you know. Like if I was sitting next to AMANDA. I guess she never really had a guy you know. If I sit near AMANDA or something like that, you know especially at the beginning she'd stomp her feet and throw herself on the floor. I mean, you know I'm like what is that? And I'd immediately pick her up, you need to go stand in the corner you know. And then she'd throw herself in the corner or throw herself into the wall like, I mean like I'd never seen her. I'm like is a girl thing. Because KYLE has never acted like that.

LM: Sure. Think she was maybe a little jealous.

CE: Yeah very, very jealous you know but. I mean but you know one of the things I try to do and actually AMANDA made that point the other day you know. She was having a fit because, it's like stop look at me you know. I met her for lunch, we were at Old Navy and you know KASSIDY is in the back seat and I'm doing eyes, ears, whatever and she'd point to all the things. She says "you pay more attention to her than me" and I'm like

well it's because she's cuter than you, just kind of make ...

LM: Huhuh.

RL: So you try to pay attention to her.

CE: Yeah, well I think you know that what I found worked was if I went home and, and talked to her first you know. I hate that thing like you kissing up to kid but yeah whatever. You know if I talk to her first I didn't hear a lot of crying you know. *[Kassidy had serious tantrums when Amanda and I first got together and I went near Amanda or showed Amanda attention. This quickly stopped and I think what helped it was when I got home I would go to Kassidy and show her love and attention first. Then we'd both go to Amanda. Around October 1st or so, the tantrums started again. Throwing herself on the floor, raging, banging her hands and head on the floor. Even on occasion she would pull her hair. The only major change in her life around October 1st was that Amanda started working, first on a survey project and later at Old Navy. Kassidy began spending significant amounts of time with Jeff. Maybe the separation from Amanda so suddenly caused it.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: And ...

LM: I would think that having a job like yours where you're on the road so much ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... and working so much that's probably like one of the last things ...

CE: Yeah you don't want to hear a lot - yeah you don't want to hear a lot of crying but whatever. I mean I dealt with a kid that was pretty colicky so you know. *[I don't think any parent wants to hear their child crying. Of course, there are moments where it can wear on your nerves. But, more importantly, you want to constantly do what you can for your children. It is such a helpless feeling to hear your baby crying and not know how to help them or ease their pain, etc.]*

RL: Oh you had a colicky kid?

CE: Yeah he was, I mean he wasn't brutal but, like I was I guess but he - I did my share of walking floors at 3 in the morning. *[Many nights as an infant Kyle would cry nonstop for several hours. Tristan and I would just take turns walking him, rubbing his back and holding him. Neither of us lost our patience.]*

RL: Well let me tell you.

CE: I learned a new sense of patience you know.

RL: Yeah. I mean any kid crying at night is, you have to.

CE: I mean it's tough because you wake up and you're not ready ...

RL: And you got to go to work the next day. That's, that's hard.

CE: I didn't even realize you guys were, were taping this. That's all right.

RL: Yeah.

LM: You know we (inaudible)

RL: taking, taking notes.

LM: Yeah I just don't, I don't remember everything we talk about, you know what I'm saying.

CE: Yeah. Like I said I have nothing to hide.

RL: That's right.

CE: You know it's weird like I sit here and I'm like I want to do anything I can you know to help. But then I'm sitting here and I wonder like oh my god be not talking but then you know. I don't know, you know what I mean.

LM: Sure.

CE: You get these (inaudible)

LM: I'm sure it's awkward sitting here with us.

CE: I just watch too much Homicide or something you know.

LM: How's the stress level with your job?

CE: It can be great. I'll, I'll, I'll tell you I went through a lot of shit before I was married, I mean before I met AMANDA you know and we you know being from like the, the things that I did. I would a lot of times with TRISTEN I'd come home and, and have like a bad attitude you know. Not like really say anything to her but just be quiet and whatever. And I had a guy that, that works for me in Rochester, he's 'an old, old fellow, he's a good guy, we talk all the time and he's just talking about how man he said "Chad you work your ass off, he goes you got to stop and smell the roses along the way." you know. And you know when you go home you leave work at work and as much as you can. Because I was (inaudible) typical company man you know, do whatever. *[What I meant to say is, I sometimes brought the stress of work home with me when I was married to Tristan. It was part of our downfall. I lived in a constant state of worry. When Amanda came into my life, I was determined to do things differently. I left work problems at work. I focused on her and the kids when home. I went and purchased some family toys to enjoy with them - a trampoline, a boat, some 3-wheelers, etc. The "guy" was Arthur Johnson whom I hired to be the maintenance person at the Rochester McDonald's. He was in his mid-60's and worked from 3:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. My recollection of Arthur's statement was probably more profane, ("work your ass off") than Arthur would have said, as he was a devout Jehovah's Witness. I remember now that he said that to me as I was leaving the Rochester restaurant to go to another. All the way to my next restaurant, I thought about what Arthur was sayign and settled on, "Don't forget to spend time with that beautiful young son and the people you love on your way tot eh top." I have great respect for Arthur.]*

RL: (Inaudible)

CE: No it was, it's part of the problem that ruined it you know.

RL: We have a lot of police officer that get caught up (inaudible)

CE: It makes it tough.

RL: Yeah have you ever been physical with your wife or AMANDA over ...

CE: Over what?

RL: A domestic type situation.

CE: Yeah. TRISTEN.

LM: Piling up sometimes?

CE: Well yeah. See TRISTEN and I you know I'm sure you guys, you're not dumb guys, your cops you know that I was arrested for. ..

RL: No I didn't, I don't know.

CE: Never been in trouble my life, model citizen, got elected to the school board at 18, one of those guys just never ...

RL: Really!

CE: Very, very political. My goal was to be the mayor. You know what I mean? Big into ...

LM: Cool.

CE: J.C.'s you stuff like that. Never really whatever but and I always had life by the balls, you know what I mean it's really, I'm the man you know. We - I would come home sometimes and have an attitude with her but we never really fought or anything like that you know. But TRISTEN and I once we had a couple of altercations with domestic things basically she was out having an affair and ... *[At times with Tristan I was very immature and did some things that I deeply regret. There were times that I was verbally abusive to her and a few times we got into physical altercations. Being much bigger and stronger, I should have been smart enough to walk away. Tristan is a good woman and didn't deserve any of that. After Tristan and I split up, I sought the help of an individual therapist to help me figure out what my problem was. The last thing I ever wanted was to hurt someone I love.]*

RL: That would be (inaudible)

CE: And it's kind of hard other thing to talk about you know but. So you know she came home things got heated again and ...

RL: Does - Do you know if JEFF has any criminal history?

CE: I think the same things.

RL: Domestic?

CE: No not domestic. He, I guess she screwed around on him once and he went and beat the guy up or something. *[At the time, I mistakenly thought "Domestic" referred to married couples and Jeff wasn't married. I knew that Jeff had situations with several girlfriends, of course, but I didn't know the extent until later.]*

RL: He has an assault charge?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Do you know whether he got convicted of it?

CE: I don't know.

RL: Okay does, does JEN have any, any convictions?

CE: I really don't know JEN all that long.

RL: AMANDA?

CE: She told me she was arrested once for smoking pot or something at Hampton Beach.
I'm like ...

LM: Where at the beach?

CE: Yeah, Hampton Beach. Worst place to go.

LM: Oh there's a lot of undercover people down there.

CE: Yeah. Yeah I guess that's what happened ...

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: ... they were out on the beach one night.

LM: Yeah.

RL: Is that the, is that the domestic is that the only time you've ever had any problems with the police?

CE: In my life?

RL: No I mean

CE: Once I, when I was 18 I got jumped by three guys and I beat the shit out of them and they went to the police. *[There were several altercations that I was involved with in my teen years, usually because I was sticking up for someone at that point in my life. I was too much testosterone and not enough negotiation.]*

LM: The three guys jumped you ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... and you beat the shit out of them?

CE: Yeah.

LM: I guess they jumped the wrong guy.

CE: Yeah. Yeah. Thank God. But you know the thing that made me mad was I'm like I just got jumped whatever then I went to the police station, those idiots one is sitting in there, oh my God ...

LM: Did you get in trouble for that?

CE: Yeah. well it got, it got, I don't know I think it was like thrown out or something, it wasn't, never really ...

RL: They just no complaint'd it type thing. Did you ever have to go to court for it?

CE: Well they said I had to go to court but then those guys never showed up because I was witnesses there that they did, that they started it. I mean I went in there with you know 20 people that saw the whole thing you know.

RL: Yeah. Who do you consider your best friend?

CE: I have two of them. Outside of my family I'm very close with my family.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: Very, very close.

RL: That's nice. Your best friends are?

CE: BRUCE AUBEY.

RL: Now where does he live?

CE: In, in Rochester.

RL: How old is he? Same age?

CE: Same age, yeah.

RL: And?

CE: And JEREMY HINTON.

RL: JEREMY?

CE: Yeah.

RL: His last name?

CE: HINTON. HINTON.

RL: And where does he live?

CE: Ah Dover.

RL: Does he - You know do you lift with those, these guys?

CE: No, well yeah JEREMY just recently started with us, he's a big kid and never had any motivation so ...

RL: Huhuh. Try to motivate him.

CE: Yeah. BRUCE I've lifted with forever.

RL: What about TRAVIS?

CE: TRAV - what do you mean lifted with us?

RL: Yeah.

CE: No he doesn't work.

RL: (Inaudible)

CE: Yeah he's a good friend but he's not - I mean if I needed something TRAV would be the guy that obviously tried to help you or whatever. But these guys are, they're friends in that you know, they know everything about you, you know what I mean? It was the hardest thing in the world to talk to, it was like telling my parents that I'm ashamed guys, I got in a fight with TRISTEN and this is what happened, you know. And to listen to them say, I mean CHAD what the hell is the matter with you, you're a big guy, you know I mean no matter if she started it whatever you got to just walk away. You know what I mean? They're true friends you know what I mean. They didn't judge me for it but they certainly let me have it.

RL: Does TRAVIS have any girlfriends?

CE: Yup.

RL: Whose his girlfriend?

CE: A girl named KANYA, it used to be EDWARDS she's just recently divorced, I don't know if she went back to her maiden or whatever.

RL: Where does she live?

CE: It's kind of weird we all grew up through the McDonald system together. I mean she moved to Texas. She lives in Farmington now I think.

RL: Farmington, New Hampshire?

CE: Yeah.

RL: . Does TRAVIS have a phone or does he use your phone?

CE: Yeah he uses my phone.

RL: Does he have a cell phone for work?

CE: No he just - he has a work number.

RL: What's his work number?

CE: 436-9689.

RL: 9689?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Now what store does he work out of?

CE: He works in Portsmouth.

RL: Has TRAVIS ever been left alone with, with the kids ...

CE: Yeah.

RL: ... to baby sat?

CE: Twice that I know of. A couple of times he would watch them for us. Usually it was like right before they were going to bed though, you know. He's, he is great with kids as well. *[I stated that Travis babysat for the kids twice. I know on one of these occasions it was for like a half hour. Amanda was out somewhere and I had Kyle and Cassidy at home. Travis was also there. I got an urgent phone call from my Rochester restaurant, the fryolaters had gone into shut down mode. I had to go there and get them up and running. Hard to run a McDonald's when you can't sell your world famous French Fries. Travis stayed with the kids until I got back about a half hour later. As I recall, I played with them for a little bit and then put them to bed. The second time I recall Travis watching Kyle and Cassidy I forget exactly what we were doing, but I believe Amanda and I went somewhere, perhaps the movies. I think it was for only a couple of hours. Hard to remember some things exactly, being that it was 10 years ago.]*

RL: Huhuh. 'What were the - Let's say over the last two or three weeks whose been, been watching KASSIDY? Who she been around?

CE: AMANDA and JEFF mostly. Because I've been you know working quite a bit.

RL: How does - I mean AMANDA just started ...

CE: Her job.

RL: ... working four days ago?

CE: Yeah. But other than that she was doing that home job, so KASSIDY was home with her all the time.

RL: Yeah. 'What was she doing on the computer?

CE: My friend, BRUCE he's a media analyzer. ..

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And he does surveying projects and stuff and I'm actually doing one right now. I was up till 2 working on it this morning with him for extra cash you know. *[It was Amanda who was actually doing the survey jobs for Bruce. She was in the middle of one when she got her job at Old Navy. I was just helping her at nights to finish it up. She went from not working all summer to working basically full time plus overnight. I was trying to help her so she didn't become overwhelmed. I thought it was good. Amanda was getting a little restless and you can get a feeling of accomplishment making your own money. Amanda had worked from an age when she could have a job and missed it. The summer off was fun for her, but she was restless.*

As you can probably imagine, everything was "jumbled" together in my mind during this interview. I believe I was confusing the evening of Nov. 8th with the night before. In fact, if you look ahead at page 63 of my interview, I talk about the survey project to the police and the next line I say, "No actually, she (Amanda), was in the shower. It was yesterday morning I'm thinking of. I'm confusing the days."

RL: Huhuh.

CE: But he, he does that and then he gets like surveys or whatever. He does like five or six thousand surveys and you input them in the computer, like six questions of each. She made a cool 1800 bucks and ...

LM: That's good money.

CE: ... to be home and ...

LM: Sure.

CE: ... able to spend time with your kid you know.

RL: Cool.

CE: Good job huh?

RL: How long did it take her?

CE: See she kind of slacked for a little bit so, probably longer that should of but I'd say it took her a good solid two weeks to do it in between. Like you know, you really can't stare at the computer screen for eight hours so she'd do it for two hours.

RL: Humm.

CE: Go do something else, go do the laundry you know.

RL: Okay. Now KASSIDY she's with AMANDA, JEFF, JENNIFER, and you sometimes?

CE: Yeah. I've watched her a few a times.

RL: How often? How many times have you watched her?

CE: Jesus. I just put AMANDA in money management class to teach her how to (inaudible) *[Budget, save for future, etc. I was trying to help her gain the basic foundation for financial freedom that she wasn't taught in school. I also knew that Amanda really wanted to take care of Kassidy and ensure a good future for her. Amanda was very strong willed and independent. I wanted to help her in the event that she and I didn't make it for some reason. She would never have to depend on someone else. In fact, the advisor that taught the class was who I used for financial advice. I had just contacted him approximately three weeks before Kassidy died. It was going to be part of Amanda's Christmas present. Probably one of the best things I accomplished in my marriage to Tristan was helping her get through college and helping with things that lead to independence.]*

RL: No that's ...

CE: I wanted

LM: That was a smart thing to do.

CE: Off early and she appreciated it you know right learn about IRA's and stuff.

RL: How long ago was that?

CE: It was - I signed her up about a month ago. It's a three session class for two and a half hours in Portsmouth. I sent her with my sister to the class. And along with a couple of my employee actually you know.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: So they did that and so on - it was three classes. I watched her probably from 7 to 8:30 on two of the nights. And one of the nights she just stayed with JEFF the whole time and I think I've watched her twice since she's worked. And I really can't think of many times other than that been alone. As a matter of fact last night was the only time I think that I had her alone for any period, we were alone for about half an hour or so before TRAV came in. Most of the time I have her and the kids, I just go, I mean her and the kids. Her and KYLE I would go to my friend BRUCE'S house.

LM: Okay.

CE: Because he has a live-in girlfriend that loves yeah, and a couple of dogs and they just sit there and play with them all night. And I'd go out and work out with BRUCE or something and you know have dinner together and by that time AMANDA is coming back from work.

RL: What - What time did you get home last night with the, with the kids?

CE: Jesus, probably quarter of 7 or so.

RL: Huhuh. And so a half hour and then TRAVIS got home?

CE: Yeah maybe, it might of been a little longer. See, no you know what it was, it had to have been about 45 minutes because I, when I came in I started talking on the phone to my friend BRUCE. I was on the phone with him for a good 15 - 20 minutes because I do a little football betting. --

LM: Oh really!

CE: Yeah.

LM: What were you betting on? What team?

CE: Well we've this past weekend you know we've spend a lot but we were talking about what we were gonna do this weekend (inaudible) about the Pats. *[I had never been much of a gambler. I didn't like going to places like Foxwoods that much. A friend had recently introduced me to betting on football games. I was having a lot of fun with it, probably because we were winning. It was exhilarating because it went away from my cautious financial nature. If the betting was not going in my favor on a regular basis, I would have walked away without regard.]*

LM: Huhuh.

RL: Don't waist your money.

CE: Yeah that's (inaudible) Yeah that's kind of what we've been talking about.

RL: Are you up or down in your betting?

CE: Up.

RL: You are? That's good.

CE: Yeah. Which is, we're having a really good year.

LM: That's good. Obviously you haven't been putting much money on the Pats then.

CE: No. Yeah, against them.

LM: Right.

RL: You talked to BRUCE last night.

CE: Yeah I talked to him and I was making some, making the kids some food whatever and I was probably on the phone, I don't know a good 15 or 20 minutes I said all right I got to go because I have bath water running and I'm trying to do it all you know, be Mr. Mom. And he's like all right man, call you in a little while because I usually the kids in bed by 8 - 8:30 so I know it's a good time to call.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And - Actually I hate to be a pain, can I go to, to the bathroom?

RL: You have to go to the bathroom?

CE: Yeah, I should drinking a ton of water.

RL: I'm not even sure where the bathroom is (inaudible)

(CHAD EVANS & Detectives leave the interview room)

(CHAD EVANS reenters the interview room)

(Det. MCCLEISH reenters the interview room)

LM: Sorry about that CHAD.

CE: No, no problem.

LM: While we're waiting for RICKY to get back in here, so what do you do for a work out?
What's your work out program?

CE: We do a lot of, just mostly (inaudible) I don't know eight months or so, six months or
so we really been doing like some power lifting crap.

LM: Yeah.

CE: Mostly feel a lot of chest.

LM: Have you tried Cell Tech?

CE: No.

LM: From the, from ...

CE: You know I've read about it and ...

LM: That stuff is mint.

CE: Is it?

LM: It's, it's well I'll tell you it's kind of pricey. If you try to get it like, if you go like GNC
or something don't do it there because your talking about like 58 bucks a bottle for it.

CE: Yeah. If you go to Fitness First USA that's where I buy most of my stuff

Uv1: (inaudible)

CE: Yeah

LM: Yeah.

CE: It's about half the price of ...

LM: Yeah. You should try the Cell Tech.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Good stuff. You probably, you probably legitimately gain I'd say about 10 pounds a muscle.

CE: Really!

LM: Not fat, not fat.

CE: It's crazy.

LM: When I, when I got out of the academy, when we're in the academy you know we don't, there isn't a lot of weight train, a lot of running.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: I mean all of the muscle I've built up playing ball was gone. I graduated 180 pounds.

CE: No shit!

LM: I started hitting the Cell Tech and doing some heavy, heavy duty lifting and now I'm up, well I got up this high because I was doing some power lifting ...

CE: Right.

LM: I weigh 230.

CE: No shit!

LM: And I ended up getting back down like, I'm been running about 205 now.

CE: It's crazy! How tall are you?

LM: 6'1".

CE: Yeah. So what are you, what you, you did some power lifting stuff?

LM: Yeah we do, me and partner do some crazy stuff. We don't do any like your standardize power lifting and you know ...

CE: squat.

LM: Yeah. No we were squatting for a while but my wheels are so bad I mean I can't do it anymore.

CE: Of course I can, that's one, the one that I'm really bad at, squatting you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: I mean I can't squat to save my life. We haven't done legs in probably a year, you know.

LM: Yeah it's hard. I tell you most, you know I was doing of a lot off..

CE: Actually we were suppose to do back tonight and stuff.

LM: Yeah.

CE: That's where I excel I think (inaudible)

LM: See that's good because as soon as I hit 30, I just turned 30 in July so you're 29 so you're going where I'm gone right then but. I never used to have any of these little injuries

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... they just don't go away.

CE: Now they snag ...

LM: I was just doing shrugs just I'd say two months ago I was doing shrugs. I wasn't, I was only warming up, I was only I was only, I went 225 on them and you know that's ...

CE: No.

LM: ... not much for shrugs. You're still you know building up. And I tell you man I picked up the bar and I was just like an old man I felt something just go in my lower back. And I ended up tearing a disk. I didn't even, it was just 225 it wasn't even heavy. And I'm finding a lot of these injuries now from lifting. They're starting to really crop up big time.

CE: See one of the things I do I have a bad, it happened in a motorcycle accident a long time ago. I have a bad back (inaudible)

LM: Really!

CE: And one of the things that I do regularly is go to the chiropractor probably one a month. Sometimes man my back will just go out. *[The name of the doctor escapes me right now but while living in Rochester I regularly went to Charles Street Chiropractic. My last visit there was sometime after my arrest and I kind of had a weird vibe. It could have been in my head, but I never went back. As I mentioned in a previous letter, I suffered a back injury when I was 11 or 12 and had been seeing a chiropractor in Brattleboro Vt. All through high school and my Keene years. Dr. Craig Anderson of Anderson Chiropractic. He was awesome. Dr. Anderson is awesome. Every chance I got when I was back in Keene I would go to see him. I also went to see him after I was charged. I didn't always go to the chiropractor as consistently as I should. I would often go 4 or 5 months without seeing one and then I would have a flare up and have to go several times a week for a few weeks in a row. After that I would be better about my "maintenance" visits for a while. (until I thought I was cured, which is never going to happen.) The reason Dr. Anderson is so much better than any NH Chiropractor is NH is regulated much differently and many of their practices are archaic. Dr. Anderson was always cutting edge and you felt 100 times better when you left his office.]*

LM: But you like to see - I was thinking of, like when I was going there and stuff he was, it felt good.

CE: Right.

LM: I mean like I'd walk out of there feeling ...

CE: Right.

LM: ... like really good. You know I had the funny feeling in your back I felt good and I was thinking. I'll have one more appointment tomorrow I was thinking about you know going on a regular basis ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: So you go like

CE: Once a month. Yeah, Once a month just to get you know; I mean that's what they suggest you know, so you just get an alignment like ...

TAPE #2 SIDE A

LM: ... going, going to one on a regular basis.

CE: Humm.

LM: Because some of my buddies they, they go and they say they feel pretty good. But yeah you should try the Cell Tech and you know .. ,

CE: Yeah, maybe I will.

LM: I actually tried it with, I did the Acetabolin which is a, it's an enhancer.

CE: Yeah.

LM: It allows your muscles to absorb the stuff faster.

CE: Right.

LM: Thanks

CE: No thanks. I'm trying to quit.

RL: It's good stuff, I don't blame you.

CE: So your injury

CE: You know I sit there and you know it's kind of weird and like you know us just talking about it. I was telling the Lieutenant or whatever (inaudible)

LM: Yeah.

CE: (Inaudible). I'm like your mind kind of wanders back to this thing, you know what I mean like?

LM: Oh the, yeah (inaudible)

CE: I mean yeah. Well not even that just her. Like ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ... I, you kiss a baby good-bye in the morning you know what I mean? *[I'm talking away one moment and then the next minute I realize that Cassidy is dead. I just cannot fathom it.]*

RL: Huhuh, you give her a bath the night before. Did you give her a bath the night before?

CE: Yeah.

RL: You said you had the bath water running.

CE: Yeah, yeah.

RL: Now when ...

CE: That's when TRAV came home (inaudible).

RL: Is it a, is it a shower/bath type ...

CE: Yeah stall.

RL: Did you put them both in together?

CE: No, no. KYLE has this thing where he's got to have his own bath. *[They would bathe together on occasion, but Kyle really did prefer the tub to himself.]*

RL: Okay, privacy.

CE: He's only had, he's only had two or three baths with her that he's allowed. He, actually it's funny you say that "his privacy" he, when AMANDA gives him a bath he'll finally let her do it but she'd give him a bath and he had his underwear on.

RL: (Inaudible)

CE: He wouldn't take a bath without his underwear on. He goes "no you can't see my thing".

LM: A little embarrassed.

RL: Did, did KYLE and AMANDA fight? Like brother and sister? I mean ...

CE: KYLE and KASSIDY you mean?

RL: I mean, I'm sorry.

CE: I'm like KYLE and AMANDA? Oh I hope that she'd win that.

RL: KYLE and KASSIDY?

CE: Yeah. I mean well sometimes.

RL: They consider themselves, well would you consider themselves as brother and sister type relationship or was there any jealousies?

CE: There was jealousies. *[As with any children but they also acted like brother and sister and had that type of relationship. Kyle is very protective and was with Kassidy. If Amanda or I were disciplining Kassidy for some reason, Kyle would come into the room and say, "Stop yelling at Akassidy." He called her, "Akassidy."]*

RL: Okay.

CE: There was a lot of jealousies. And a lot of it was really her being jealous. And then him, I mean he had his, his moments. Like last night for instance he wouldn't let her sit on the couch with him for a few minutes to watch TV like I kind of let them watch a few minutes of that before they go to bed. "No daddy, I want the whole couch" and whatever. You know I like put the pillow between them. And (inaudible) they're happy, he still had a fit so I made him go in the comer. I'm like you need to share. *[Just like any brother/sister of a similar age. First they got along and then they each want to control something. It's maddening really. But, I guess that is how they carve out their niche in life.*

Despite the view widely held by the police, I disciplined Kyle when he was misbehaving as well. It was after Kassidy's bath and prior to me taking her into the office for the Popsicle if I recall correctly. I sat them on the couch and Kyle was trying to hog the entire couch and saying that he didn't want Kassidy on it with him. Just like every brother and sister, they had their moments of jealousy of each other as well as times of getting along. Because of my concern for Kassidy's odd behavior that night, I was paying more attention to her and I think Kyle was feeling a bit jealous. I told Kyle that the couch was huge and he didn't need the entire thing. I then took the throw pillows and set them up, splitting the couch down the middle informing Kyle that he and Kassidy now each had their own side. Kyle was still

not happy with this and kicked the pillows on the floor and tried to hog Cassidy's side too, saying "No daddy, I want the whole thing." Kyle was just being bratty so I picked him up off the couch and told him that he needed to go stand in the corner. I can't remember if he just went or if I had to carry him which sometimes was the case. This corner happened to be next to the downstairs bathroom. We didn't have set "corners" whichever was closest to the event worked. Kyle faced the corner for one minute. This was the general practice because I thought it best that he stare at a "blank canvas" (the wall) and think about the event that led to the time out. After a minute or so, Kyle came back over and said, "Ok Daddy, I can share now." As ALWAYS was my practice, I pulled him up on my lap and explained it to him. I'm not sure of the exact words I used but I'm sure it was something very close to, "Kyle, we are a family and as a family we share everything and show each other love. This couch is just as much Cassidy's as it is yours. I hate sending you to time out probably more than you hate going there, but sometimes your actions leave me no choice. Now give me a hug and can you give Cassidy one too please?" It is one of my biggest core values that you always share and look out for your family members. I believe the best way to get kids to think this way is to show them the value in it, model it yourself, and talk about it's importance. I am so happy to say that Kyle is a great brother to Brent and Aidan. He is ALWAYS looking out for them and shares everything he has. Much of this is likely innate, but I like to think that I even today, I help shape his values.]

LM: Did he go over and do it?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Did he go over and do it (inaudible)

CE: Yeah. Yeah he went in the comer, stood there for a minute. He goes "okay daddy I can share now." And I knew he would you know.

LM: Sure, he doesn't want to stay in the comer.

RL: Now last night at the, the bath did you notice anything funny about the way AMANDA was, was behaving?

CE: KASSIDY?

RL: I mean, I'm sorry yeah.

CE: Right.

RL: KASSIDY?

CE: Yeah. I noticed a lot of things last night.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And ...

RL: (inaudible)

CE: I don't know. I just you know I really, the last thing I want to do is get someone in trouble you know. And I don't know if ...

LM: Who are you afraid to get in trouble?

CE: Well possibly, I don't know. I picked her up from JEFF you know.

LM: Yeah. You think something might of happened over there, is that ...

CE: I don't know. I just - Out of my own selfishness I didn't...

LM: Didn't what?

CE: I shouldn't be talking she just was acting funny you know and I just...

RL: Well when you say you shouldn't even talk you know you're, you got a dead little ...

CE: I know I don't mean, unlike I don't want to help that.

RL: (Inaudible)

CE: I just I guess what I'm saying when I say I shouldn't even talk it's, it's like you know the last thing I want to do is like accuse somebody of doing something that, you know unless you actually physically seen somebody you know what I mean, or whatever. But...

LM: Well if you, if you got something you know on your mind or, or anything that could help us you know figure something out, you know ...

CE: She was in a daze last night. She was really weird. Like I don't know why I didn't, like not talking and I...

LM: What do you think about that, why she was in kind of a more daze?,

CE: I - I, she, well, she was you know I'm just picturing it in the car like you know, she's sitting there in the car you know hanging over that car seat with like, kind of like drooling a little bit you know and...

LM: Was she looking around or?

CE: Not really.

LM: All right.

CE: She was looking forward so I'm like, I thought maybe she was just getting ready to go to sleep because sometimes she does that you know.

LM: Sure.

CE: She's got you know daze look. But she didn't really fall asleep. When KYLE got in the car she didn't say "Hi Kiko" like she always did, you know what I mean? She just kind of sitting there looking at the house, freaken weird. And I don't know.

LM: How was she when you, when like you pick, you know when you, you said you kind of carried out to the car right? Is that...

CE: No JEFF carried her.

LM: JEFF carried her out to you and then ...

CE: He ...

LM: How was she?

CE: ... and she was the same way just fucken like lethargic, just kind of there you know. *[I'm so frustrated with myself because now that Cassidy is dead it seems pretty obvious from her symptoms that I should have taken her to the hospital. Maybe if I had, rather than sit and question if I should, she would still be alive!]*

LM: Did he say like you know ...

CE: No.

LM: ... he notice anything

CE: He, he didn't really say, that's kind of why I called him, because I'm like what the hell you know, I mean how long have you had her? He said "Oh well I haven't had her that long." And he said that he, he hadn't had her that long and because AMANDA didn't go to work until like 4 or something like that and this is like almost 6. You know it's about, probably an hour and half whatever. And I said well did she, was she fine. "Oh she seemed fine over here." But I mean it was dark you know.

LM: Sure.

CE: And I wasn't really paying attention to her until like I'm like when she wasn't talking. I'm like what the hell is going on.

LM: Did you maybe think she was tired or something at first?

CE: Yeah, you know because she was kind of wrapped up in ...

RL: How, how was she when, when she got home? I mean did she act like she had the flu or was she running around? What did she do?

CE: She was weird. Like last night she, as a matter of fact I mean I, I called JEFF then too afterwards but she, I, I spoke to AMANDA about it. That the weirdest things happened. Like one of the things that she does sometimes is like, she'll just you know be running along and fall, but unlike a typical kid she doesn't like to put her hands to stop herself. I don't, you know what I mean?

LM: She kind of goes ...

CE: That's what makes me wonder if she might be a little slow like you know.

LM: Sure.

CE: Because I mean even KYLE when he always fell at that age you can always put your hands out to stop. But you know she was sitting in the car and I went and got her out of the car and that kind of like bothered me a little bit but I didn't - I'll, I'll explain it in a second but. I set her down ...

RL: Where?

CE: She was out, in the car, I opened the car door, I set her down in front of the door standing up. I'm like wait a minute because KYLE is on the other end of the car screaming "Daddy get me out, get me out" whatever. So I opened his car door and let him out. I go back to the other side of the car and she's not standing anymore she's laying face down on the ground ...

RL: Humm.

CE: With her hands to her side, not crying or anything. I'm like "what the hell is going on with you?"

LM: Just laying there?

CE: Yeah just laying there. And I'm like ...

LM: Was she saying anything?

CE: I was freaked out. No.

LM: Not a thing.

CE: No (inaudible)

LM: Huh?

CE: So I'm like all right whatever. I brought her inside and well actually KYLE came around the corner and saw her, he goes "Daddy why is she laying on the ground?" I don't know KYLE, so I picked her up and carried her inside. 'When I fed her she ate pretty good. Then ...

LM: What did you feed her?

CE: Well I tried to give her a grilled cheese. *[Actually, she didn't eat well as I said earlier. I was referring to the fact that it was odd because she usually ate well.]*

LM: You said you gave her a banana.

CE: I gave her a banana.

LM: Right.

CE: So any way I, she just was acting strange like that you know. And ...

- RL: Again, what time of night was this? With the banana, I mean just, just roughly?
- CE: Right after, probably 6:30 - 7 somewhere around there.
- RL: Was there any, anything going on with the kids watching BARNEY or anything?
- CE: No. No. When we went inside - when we went inside she, I sat her down on the counter and I opened up the mouse trap, I caught a mouse. She actually acknowledged it, pointed it.
- LM: Sure.
- CE: And KYLE is "Daddy you got another mouse" you know whatever. And then I set her in her seat and I, I think that's when I started "" .
- RL: Is that a high chair type thing?
- CE: Yeah. That's when I started talking to BRUCE. I started the bath water. Trying to be multitasked. Feed 'em, clean 'em.
- LM: Huhuh.
- CE: (Inaudible)
- LM: How was she when, when you set her down? Was she still drooling or anything like that or was she ...
- CE: No she, she seemed kind of normal, you know what I mean.
- LM: Yeah.
- CE: Like better. But wasn't you know, great she was just there you know. So anyway I, then I, I think it was - so I give you the exact events of what happened.
- LM: Huhuh.
- CE: She went, I fed her and she went, brought them in the living room for a few minutes. And I brought them upstairs and, and here's another, here's another thing that happened that was, that was kind of odd. I called JEFF and I, I was talking to him about it. And I just thought it was really strange but he was acting kind of weird on the phone like I thought you know just like wasn't, like we always make little jokes you know, like I mean. But he, he wasn't like I'm just - what the hell, what did you do to her when she was at your house? He goes "nothing" you know but...

RL: Was this the second time you talked to him about it?

CE: Yeah this was the second time. And he goes "Why?" And I'm like I told him that she fell, you know and didn't even like flinch. But she, but that's not really uncommon to be honest with you. She's done that a million times.

LM: Fallen down like that.

CE: TRAVIS you know has seen it. You know AMANDA has seen it. Like if AMANDA "What the hell is wrong with her? Why does she do that?" She'll just be walking along. fall and like ...

LM: Yeah - What's up with that right?

CE: Like why don't you put your hands up and catch yourself.

LM: Sure.

RL: Have, have you ever suspected JEFF of being assaultive?

CE: About, eh, and this is why I'm kicking myself in the ass. Because last night she was you know, didn't seem right whatever. You know and and she was acting kind of funny. I'm thinking maybe I should just take kid to the doctor's. Because she had some you know, black and blues on her whatever; And I'm like know, like I went through my thing with TRISTEN and I know how people have kids. I don't want anybody thinking I'm bringing this kid to the hospital.

LM: She had marks you're saying?

CE: Yeah like, she had like a black and blue on her cheek or something.

LM: Where that, where did that come from those same things?

CE: I - To be honest with you I don't know.

LM: You're not sure?

CE: I mean, I mean you know like I said she does walk into things.

LM: Falling, yeah that's what I'm saying like falling down.

CE: Yeah. And then - So I'm like I don't know, I'll just watch her and whatever but.

LM: You were kind of afraid someone might.. ..

CE: Well I did.

LM: start you know saying stuff that...

CE: The thing I went through a custody thing with KYLE and that's the one thing that TRISTEN was very adamant about was like look whatever, you know cause her lawyer is obviously trying to get her to take me to the cleaners and whatever. *[Tristan and I came to a very good custody and support agreement for the boys. As far as I knew, our divorce wasn't final yet; and I didn't want anything to alter our arrangement. We had it worked out that I would have Kyle four days a week and for support I paid for all of Kyle and Brent's expenses - school, childcare, medical, etc. I made significantly more than Tristan at the time and was happy to do it.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: And get her to say all kinds of shit. She said "no matter what he did to me or what we got in a fight in he's been the best father in the world and I would never try to take the kids from being able to see him or whatever. And like the last thing I'm gonna do is like have anybody tell me that I can't see my kid.

LM: Right, you don't want somebody to accuse you ...

CE: Right. And, and maybe you know and I, I kind of feeling weird tell you guys that. That I was thinking that as I'm looking at this kid. -

LM: Understandable.

CE: Because I'm thinking, I'm like here I am I'm like I don't want to make myself look like I did anything but at the same time ...

LM: Totally understandable.

CE: I'm you know so I just, I don't know. I mean I didn't think it was that huge a thing. But anyway as I was saying, like a month ago JEFF was watching her and AMANDA, him and I went out the next day and got some three wheelers. And he's telling me how he spanked her so hard his hand stung. And I kind of laughed because I thought he was kidding you know, thinking you know that's kind of you know there's no way you can hit a kid that hard you know.

LM: Stung his hand?

CE: Yeah his entire hand or whatever.

RL: Especially if she's wearing a diaper.

CE: Well exactly.

LM: Yeah.

CE: When I got home that night AMANDA was pretty upset and I let you know she showed me KASSIDY'S ass.

LM: Yeah.

CE: It's pitched black.

LM: Really!

CE: And - just I've never seen a big black and blue like that before. I'm like holy shit. And she talked to her sister about it I guess and JEN said "Don't show that to Chad" or whatever because she knew I'd be kind of bullshit about it. But I mean it's, it's like the whole thing is is again you know I'm, I mean like last night on the phone I suggested to AMANDA, I said and I mean, swear on a stack of bibles and this is what's kind of weird. Like I was talking to her I said AMANDA I don't know if I want to watch KASSIDY, I'm like the weirdest shit happens. I'm like you know, like the falling thing, whatever. But I told her- when I picked her up she's not like feeling well. But I said I don't -think, originally the whole JEFF watching her was suppose to be a real, you know only after day care but we haven't been able to get into day care yet you know and do whatever. He's suppose to pick her up after, after he gets out or whatever and ... *[I was trying to tell Amanda that I didn't want to watch Kassidy after Jeff watched her because weird shit happens with her. But, more importantly, he should not be watching Kassidy because he was not good with her. It was supposed to be a short term thing, before we would be able to get Kassidy into real day care.]*

LM: Did you ask JEFF about...

CE: The black and blue on her?

LM: Yeah. Did you, did you say you know what's up with that or?

CE: We didn't, he - I said Jesus you really hit her hard. And he's like "yeah" and he was kind of like you know laughing about it whatever. And I'm like AMANDA is pretty pissed off about that you know what I mean, that's really the only conversation we had. I mean it you know, I know it's wrong. But like that whole back to not butting my nose into everything. If it was KYLE I would of. *[During my conversation with Jeff about the spanking, I was really upset, and told him that he should never hit her again. If she needed that kind of discipline, that was a decision for Amanda to make. I told Jeff if he ever hit her like that again, I would kick his ass. He knew I was serious and I assumed that was enough of a threat to get him to think next time. My friend, Jeremy saw Kassidy's buttocks the day afterwards and was appalled.]*

LM:

CE: Yeah he would of been, but you know with her I just - you know and like last night on the phone I said AMANDA I just don't, I said I think you really should you know we talked about him just watching her a little bit. I really think that you should find another place, he's 24 years old, he doesn't have any kids of his own, he doesn't understand how to handle them.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I don't think that he's a good person to be watching her.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I mean like she's got a big ole' egg on her head that been there for a week and a half when he left her alone in the truck and she fell out of it.

LM: What happened with that? *[Jeff told several different versions of this same story to different people. The version he told me was several days after the event when I was questioning him about the huge eggs on her head and my concern for how she came home to Amanda that evening (sticking her face in cereal bowl, dehydrated, etc. This was when Amanda's car was in the shop and Jeff kept putting off bringing Kassidy home.) I think I saw him in my Portsmouth or Greenland store when I asked him about it. He told me he was in his driveway and that he was getting ready to head out somewhere and just set Kassidy down in the cab of the truck for a minute without buckling her in. He was home at the time. Supposedly, she was leaning out the cab window and fell out of the truck and landed on her head in the hard packed driveway! He saw it happening but couldn't get to her in time to catch her. This is why I was talking about this being a 4' fall from his truck onto her head. As we have learned in the last ten years about head injuries to children, if this truly happened, it could have been drastic. There is no doubt in my mind her condition and "spaceyness" changed dramatically after this fall. Talking to Jordan Sandman about his condition and also Courtney English about her son being kicked by a horse, there is no doubt that Kassidy displayed some of the symptoms of Petite Mal Seizures. Of course, at the time, neither Amanda or I had any idea how serious this injury potentially was. I guess we just reasoned it off, that it likely happened a day or two earlier and she seemed OK other than the big egg on her head. I know Jeff told Amanda a slightly different version, and he told Jeremy something else, etc. In one of them he caught her falling off the seat, in one she fell out the back slider window in the bed of the truck. I heard all of them back then from various sources.]*

CE: I don't know. I mean that's just how she came home.

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: Big ass freaken bruise and like right here on the back of her head. And I wasn't home. I hadn't been, I think I was away for a day or something because I came home and I'm like what the hell happened to her AMANDA? And she said "Oh JEFF said she was sitting in her seat and fell out of it." Out of the truck or something. *[This was approximately a week or two prior to her death. Jeff brought Kassidy home after keeping her for two nights. When I got home around 8 p.m., Amanda described to me that Kassidy was dehydrated and at one point her eyes were rolled back in her head. I asked Amanda if we should bring Kassidy to the doctor's. She said, "No, she seems better right now. If she not ok in the morning, I'll take her." I went to the store and bought pedialyte and we took turns holding her and walking her all night.]*

LM: One of the times he was baby-sitting her?

CE: Yeah. And another time he was baby-sitting her he left her in the, I guess he left her in the room, he changed her diaper she shit whatever.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: He changed her diaper but he let her, she was standing on the bed and he left her pants around her ankles and what do you think is gonna happen?

LM: She's gonna fall down.

CE: And what did she do?

LM: She fell off.

CE: Smack, you know. *[I BELIEVE I found out about the diaper change incident during my trip to Maine to pick up the 3 wheeler with Jeff. During the ride we were discussing things and I believe he told me that was when it happened just prior to our trip. I told him he had to be more careful. I suggested that he change Kassidy on the floor as that is where I often do because Kassidy can be squirmy.]*

LM: 'What did she get from that? Did she get cuts or anything like that?

CE: No I don't, I think she just...

LM: Bruises, bumps.

CE: Bruises.

LM: Yeah.

RL: 'What did she have last night for bruises when you were bathing her?

CE: Well she got one from, she got a bruise from KYLE.

LM: How, how did she get that?

CE: Well I'm a little embarrassed to say it. My mother always told me never play with balls in the house. I have this thing with him where you know if you can't go out whatever I'll, I'll just throw balls to him in his room. He can hit like the dickens. I throw whiffle balls to him you know.

LM: He must love that?

CE: Oh he loves it.

LM: I bet he does.

CE: She can't really walk or whatever. So I have her sitting beside me you know. I'm sitting on the bed just tossing in the air and he's wailing on them. But he's you know throwing all over and he's catching the things or whatever. She was sitting on the right hand side and you know I threw the ball and he hit it and but it was like, it was a hard rubber ball and he whacked her right on the side of the face, like right here. *[Kassidy's difficulty with walking had two sources. First, her feet pointed inward a little, and Amanda took her to see a doctor about that, and was assured that she would grow out of that problem. Most recently, within days of her death, she came home from Jeff's with a limp and Jeff explained that he had tripped over her, and stepped on her foot.]*

LM: The ball with ...

CE: With the ball.

LM: You say a rubber ball ...

CE: Well it's like, you know one of those starter baseballs. *[Tee-balls.]*

LM: Oh, okay.

CE: And I was just, I was pissed off.

LM: Kind of like foam or something?

CE: Yeah because, well no it's, it's hard but it's got a rubber coating on it.

LM: Okay.

CE: But he like whacked her right, right on the side of the, the face.

LM: Where did it hit her?

CE: Right, it's like right in her eye. Like right, kind of like right here you know.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I mean I didn't see exactly where but I mean I'm lefty, I reached for it you know because it was going ...

LM: Yeah.

CE: flying you know and, and immediate she just dropped back on the bed and just whimpered like "hahh". I was like what the hell? But then I started like looking at her. I'm like Jesus, are you all right you know. And KYLE is like "Sorry daddy, sorry KASSIDY" and I'm like KYLE it's okay you didn't do it on purpose. She didn't really cry, I mean she just had that like whimper you know. .

LM: Did it seem like, I mean do you think it hurt her more than ...

CE: I don't know I mean, she did. You know you think that's why I was saying a little earlier about her being like tough, you'd think that something like that is gonna hurt. Immediately got, she got like a little puffy you know. *[It was a terrible decision by me to play ball in the house when I was with Kyle and Cassidy. We typically played outdoors, but Cassidy didn't seem to be feeling well. It was November and now dark outside. We had been tossing balls to Kyle on nights like these from his little plastic wheelbarrow, which contained all the balls. There was a bunch of wiffle balls and a few harder balls. I never should have tossed his brother's Tee-Ball to him. It was a one in a million shot - to hit Cassidy in the face, and I just didn't foresee it.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: I'm like shit.

LM: Balls are still kind of hard.

CE: Oh yeah, it definitely hard. I mean he hit me with it once you know when he was throwing it so I felt it you know. So anyway you know, so I'm like-it's all right KYLE you didn't do it on purpose or whatever. But I'm like looking at her and like she had a little black and blue that I'm assuming is when she hit the driveway.

LM: Same side or?

CE: Yeah. Yeah same side. But I didn't really to be honest with you like looked her over like she been beat up or anything. I wasn't, I mean you know I was kind of joking when I called JEFF and said "What the hell did you do beat this kid up?" I didn't know, you know at the time I still thought she would be tired it was just weird you know. *[Cassidy also had a scratch and faint bruise under the other eye where our kitten scratched her. Also, when I gave her a bath on the night before she died I noticed some soreness inside her lips, perhaps from her fall in the driveway, and we skipped the brushing of her teeth.]*

RL: You said she fell on the, when you're getting out of the, out of the car?

CE: Yeah.

RL: She's only you know "yey" tall.

CE: Yeah.

RL: So that was just the height that she fell? She wasn't standing on the roof of the car?

CE: No, no, no, no, no. No. She was kind of, she was like I can't even remember I think she was standing you know with the door open.

RL: Yeah.

CE: But I don't think I set her on the ledge like ..

RL: No I mean ...

CE: Sometimes - she loves to jump, you know what I mean.

RL: It's not that far.

CE: No. But you know yeah, you never really other than that time. I, you know when I gave her a bath I didn't really, you know I shampooed her up and whatever but the whole time I was there I give her a bath I was talking to TRAVIS so I wasn't really looking at her because he was standing right beside and we were shooting the shit. *[Kassidy may have some bruises that I don't recall because it wasn't as if I was inspecting her for bruises. Whatever she may have had, including normal child scrapes and scratches, I didn't notice anything that was alarming to me.]*

RL: You gave her a bath and she was completely naked?

CE: Yeah.

RL: Did - Did you ever suspect that JEFF or anybody could of done anything sexually to her?

CE: Ah no.

RL: Okay.

LM: If, if you thought that maybe something happened I mean you know, it would help us you know ...

CE: No I hear what you're saying but you know like I'll be honest with you. Like ...

RL: Well we hope you are.

CE: No, no, no, no I don't mean I just like say that it's my expression.

RL: Yeah.

CE: You know like I felt really weird wiping her diaper, her dirty diaper because she had it all the way up herself.

LM: Sure.

CE: And my sister was right there and she's like "Chad you have to wipe her." I'm like "NICOLE you wipe it, she's a girl and she's like ... "

LM: Right.

CE: ...such a baby whatever, you know what I mean?

LM: Huhuh.

CE: And like that whole, so you know that whole thing kind of makes me sick. I never really thought about anybody doing that kind of shit you know.

LM: Right. Do you think something, anything like that might of happened?

CE: God I hope not because that's ...

LM: Okay.

CE: I - I - I can't say whether I think that or not, I - I never really thought about that. Never. I mean I've seen, I saw the black of her ass and I've seen her come back with big ...

RL: How long ago was that black and blue?

CE: ... egg on her head and I've seen freaken you know.

RL: Yeah. But how long ago was the black and blue on her ass?

CE: Man! Probably, probably close to a month ago, maybe more. *[It's hard to estimate time off the top of your head. It was really more like three weeks previous, as I've come to realize with the recent work in compiling a "Chronology" on the website. We now estimate that the approximate date of that spanking was Saturday, October 21st.]*

RL: Okay. And then you said she had a couple eggs on her head?

CE: Yeah. That's where I said she fell out of the truck. But it like, it was like a week ago you know. And she's still got a bump the size her shoe today. *[The fall from Jeff's truck was actually approximately 12 days prior to her death, as it was during the three day period, Oct. 26-28, that he and Jennifer had Kassidy. When I described Kassidy as having a bump on her head, I believe I was speaking figuratively, as the "bump" or "egg" lasted a long time. When the injury occurred, the two bumps were, together, the width of the balls of her feet.]*

RL: Did he explain how it happened? I mean was she

CE: I didn't really ever talk to him about it. That's what AMANDA told me was that you know. But when I saw him probably, I don't know a week later I was telling him some of the weird things she, like sometimes we talk like I'm like JEFF I think she might ~ slow. How do I tell AMANDA like you know she needs to get her checked or whatever? And just kind of... *[I didn't talk with Jeff about the fall, initially. He saw me at one of my restaurants and I commented on the two large bruises on her head. He informed me that she was leaning out the truck window when parked in his driveway and fell out, and landed on her head.]*

LM: Sure

CE: ... you know joking about it whatever. And he's like "Oh man you know, I know she did this like when I was watching her" you know ...

LM: Is she coming back from like JEFF'S house you know, did you ever feel like you know why does she seem to come from there with bruises and injuries and stuff a lot? That's kind of what I was leading to I think with AMANDA last night was I said to JEFF, I'm like what the hell did you do her? "Nothing" But then I talked to AMANDA on the the phone. I said "she's got like a little mark on her left eye AMANDA, what happened?" You know because I hadn't seen her all day and AMANDA had her all day. She's like "Oh I don't know that was there a couple days ago." I'm like how in the hell did I not notice something like that you know. It wasn't huge but she's got like, it looked like a cat scratch you know.

LM: Huhuh.

RL: What time did AMANDA go to work yesterday?

CE: She, she called up I guess in the morning and got her hours or something. She just goes when she wants. But I think, I don't know for a fact but she told me she was gonna work at 5.

RL: So when you left yesterday AMANDA and the baby were still home?

CE: Yeah. Yeah. No actually I'm sorry. When I left yesterday AMANDA had taken KYLE after school for me so she, she did that and I was gone but I jumped in the shower and I think I was gone before she got back.

RL: Okay, when she, you say she took KYLE to school she also had KASSIDY with her?

CE: Yeah. Yeah.

RL: And from there do you know what she did with KASSIDY?

CE: No idea.

RL: Okay. And you picked KASSIDY

CE: I know she picked up some brake parts for me at noon and she still had KASSIDY then because I called her and I heard KASSIDY in the background and I'm like you know just say something like Big Bird is on TV or something. *[It is likely I gave Amanda cash to pick up the brake parts. I cannot recall this incident exactly. I am guessing that it was either for the RX-7 I had or for Amanda's car. I usually brought my company car to a garage for service. I had a couple of "Ma and Pa" type garages in the Rochester area that I had to do my personal work if I wasn't doing it myself. I may have been planning to do this myself. I don't remember. Sometimes I would do brake jobs and small repairs with my dad. It was a nice way for him and I to spend some time together. When I was a child my dad worked non stop. Some of my best memories of spending quality time with him was when we were working on his old work trucks. I would spend hours laying on the ground with him, handing up tools.]*

RL: Huhuh.

CE: I'm like what she doing? She's like "being a little bitch". I'm like what is she doing now, she's watching TV

LM: Yeah.

RL: Is that a common expression.

CE: Lately she's been very frustrated with her because she's been very fussy. And she's been less fussy with me than she has with AMANDA which is kind of odd.

LM: Humm.

CE: Because at first you know she had a big jealous streak for me. You know now it's like she didn't have a problem ...

LM: Warming up to you a little bit more.

RL: She wants you more than ...

CE: No, no I wouldn't - She's warmed up to me to the point where like you know, I'll put my arms up and she'll come right to me you know what I mean. And, and, and like you know if AMANDA is frustrated - See I think AMANDA, I think that job at home was hard on her. You know like she never, she always seemed to be good with you know but sometimes have breaks you know, bring her to a friend's or something.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: Or you know her mom would watch her for a few - Like this summer we went on a lot of trips you know. Like I took AMANDA canoeing, I took AMANDA you know to New York City, we, yeah we did a lot of shit. And you know her mom always had KASSIDY at that point, you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: When we were doing those things.

LM: Yeah.

CE: So she had breaks sometimes. But she had two solid weeks of, three solid weeks of complete KASSIDY time you know.

LM: Right. I'm sure ...

CE: Couple of times can get on your nerves. *[It can be overwhelming when a child is very fussy for several days in a row. Where this behavior wasn't exactly typical for Cassidy, it should have been a sign for us to take Cassidy to the doctor.]*

LM: Oh totally.

CE: So she said a lot more things like that that were kind out of character for her I thought. You know like how is she today? "She's a little shit". She's like "She's a bitch" or she was ... *[Actually, it would be things like, "She's acting like a little shit."]*

LM: Seemed to be getting a little more stressed out and ...

CE: Yeah. Yeah.

RL: Did, did you notice anything with her this morning on the bruises when you saw her?

CE: No I didn't. This morning I was late, I got up, I fed KYLE, I worked on that project till like I said I don't know 1 :30 - 2 last night and so I had hard time getting my butt out of bed you know. So then finally I did get up and she got up before I did. She was in the shower and doing her thing.

RL: AMANDA was up before you?

CE: Yeah. Yeah. No actually she wasn't in the shower it was yesterday morning I'm confusing the days.

RL: Humm.

CE: But she was up and then she got up and helped me with (inaudible). She came downstairs, KASSIDY was still in bed, she got KASSIDY up, brought her down. I said AMANDA what, actually she went and got KYLE's lunch together. I'm like what do you want me to do? Do you want me to feed KASSIDY right now? Do you want me to put cereal in a bag? She said put cereal in a bag and I you know, so I asked her what kind she wanted and whatever. *[I took Cassidy into the kitchen and sat her on the counter and asked her what type of cereal she wanted. She pointed to Reese's Puffs.]*

LM: How was KASSIDY acting? Normal?

CE: Yeah she seemed, she seemed - before she went to bed because I checked on her a few times just because I was you know, just weird and she was fine. Like as a matter of fact I think the last time I checked on her was like 9:30, I went in, I sneaked in I looked at her ...

LM: She was in bed?

CE: Yeah.

RL: You - You were home alone?

CE: No, no TRAVIS was there.

RL: Well. ..

LM: How was she when you checked on her?

CE: She was fine. She actually rolled over gave me, said "kiss" ... *[Often, when you checked on Cassidy, she would say, "Kiss," or "Hug." It was the cutest thing, and then when you gave her a hug, she would say, "AAAUUUGHHH."]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: And gave me a kiss and then she then you know.

LM: She didn't seem to be dazing?

CE: No she seemed a lot better you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: So I thought oh maybe she was just tired or something because she slept like a, a log for a while you know. And she was fine. And and usually before I go to bed I make a trip into both kids, give them a kiss goodnight.

LM: Humm.

CE: Ah pretty typical. And I kissed her. And I think it was probably about midnight that I went upstairs because I had to use the bathroom and I could smell she had ~ shitty diaper. And I told AMANDA about it. She goes "I'm not waking her up to change it" so.

LM: Humm.

LM: Why wake her up, she's asleep right?

CE: Yeah. So we just let her sleep.

LM: So then this morning she, she seemed all right?

CE: Yeah. This morning she picked out her cereal, she was mowing it out of a baggie. *[Mowing is slang for eating voraciously. Much like the way many people use the word "chowing" in place of eating. (The O is soft sounding like in ouch) When I used mowing to describe how Kassidy was eating her cereal it was a slight exaggeration. I was trying to make the point that she definitely was dipping her little hand into the baggie and eating cereal, because it felt like they were in disbelief that she was actually eating. I recall during the autopsy the contents of Kassidy's stomach was a brown liquified goop, consistent with the cereal I described her eating. We drank a variety of juice in the house. The kids all loved apple juice. I imagine that is what I put into her sippy cup that morning. I liked to give them apple cider as well. Acidic juices, such as orange, don't taste as well as they warm up in "sippy cup" so that was usually more of a meal time drink vs. something you would keep in one of the kids cups and go back to throughout the day. Wouldn't it have been great in all those hours the cops were at my house if they had the forethought to snap photos of everything including the contents of my refrigerator, all trash cans, closets, etc. It would make verifying things and providing proof, so much easier. I'm surprised they didn't. If they were so convinced that I was lying, this would have provided tangible proof for them.]*

LM: Yeah. Okay.

CE: AMANDA put her in the car. I put KYLE in. I gave KASSIDY a kiss, gave KYLE a kiss.

RL: What about bruises when you went this morning?

CE: What about bruises this morning?

RL: Yeah. Were they ...

CE: I didn't notice anything, I mean other than you know she had that, like I said she had like a lump one side of the head that was a little black and blue.

RL: When you say the other side, you mean the right side of the head was black and blue?

CE: I, I don't...

RL: Was it over the eye or the eye itself?

CE: No it was like a right around, I don't know.

LM: Is that from the baseball?

CE: No. Well it was the same size so I don't know, you know what I mean it was, it looked like, I don't know to be honest with you if it was baseball or what it was.

LM: Did she have any other marks on her face at all?
(Cough)

CE: She had like, like around the eye, you know where I hit her with the ball. And actually KYLE made a comment about it this morning he said "Daddy did I do that?" you know. And I'm like yeah that's - KYLE it's okay you know because, you know sometimes he'll do malicious things to her you know.

LM: Okay.

CE: Like you know, like he'll just take her ball, I mean take her - She'll come over and take something he's eating or whatever and you know he'll take it back and push it down on the floor or something and he's much bigger than her. She's a little peanut. *[As previously mentioned, they would sometimes fight as siblings fight. I wanted him to know this was ok. Accidents happen, and it was Daddy's fault for throwing the ball to him on the 8th.]*

LM: And did that happen in the last couple of days?

CE: A few times you know, but nothing like, he didn't like hit her over the head with an iron or anything that I know of.

LM: Right. No injuries she got from that type of thing?

CE: No. Not I mean nothing, like I said I mean it's hard to sit here and just you know I mean and just try to imagine everything that happened over the past two days you know in, in the best detail because you obviously you'll never think you're gonna be sitting here. in a room like this you know.

LM: Huhuh. Definitely.

RL: Let me, let me ask you CHAD. Have you ever, have you ever caused any bruises on on KASSIDY?

CE: She - She uh. She. No. Well. I remember one time when I you know, she did something and it was, and then she said "no, no, no" to me and whatever and I'm like and I just you know, I'm like "what did you say?" You know (inaudible) quiet. She's like no. So I went over and just - that's, that's one thing about her it's like I didn't really ever want to touch, she's like one of those kids it seemed like you touch her, you know what I mean. I'm like I - you know what I mean, I always told AMANDA that you know but. I think she had a bruise like right here and I'm like oh. But then I saw KYLE touch her there. *[Yes, I had caused bruising to Cassidy's lower jaw area by trying to gain eye contact while holding her face with an open hand. Apparently, I held her too firmly, as I left finger tip size bruises on her lower jaw area. I stammered my way through this question because I knew these actions had nothing to do with Cassidy's death, and I didn't want to divert the police attention from what was important. My trying to do their job for them and decide what was important was likely a mistake. I would occasionally hold Cassidy in this fashion when she was having her worst temper tantrums.]*

LM: Humm.

CE: You know like ...

LM: So you kind of just like grabbed her face kind of thing?

CE: Yeah just like you know you listen to me just like this with two fingers ...

LM: Sure.

CE: No you listen to me ...

LM: Like my parents ...

CE: Looking me in the eyes. Exactly. *[I was trying to say to Officer McCleish, "I am glad you understand, Officer McCleish. It's interesting to hear you acknowledge that your parents tried to get your attention in a similar manner when you were a child. Perhaps it's a generation thing, because eye contact was an important part of discipline in my house growing up."]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: You know. Look me in the eyes and then she'd look me. I think the only reason I did that because she wouldn't even look me in the eyes before that. So I'm like no you look me in the eyes.

LM: And when was that?

CE: I don't know.

LM: Recently? A couple days?

CE: Yeah. No it was probably, yeah probably ...

TAPE #2 - SIDE B

CE: Probably more like a couple of - a week.

LM: Yeah. That left a ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... like a mark on her.

CE: Well it left like a little bruise ... *[I certainly didn't mean to minimize any bruise that I caused Kassidy. I never set out to hurt her. I never thought that I was applying that much pressure. I never became overly alarmed when she had a bruise because I assumed she bruised very easily. She was very pale skinned. I certainly wish we were smart enough to have a doctor check this easy bruising to see if she had something medically wrong or a vitamin deficiency.]*

LM: Type of ...

CE: Yeah. But I mean I just, but see I you know I don't know that that actually left the ...

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... left a bruise or not you know. Because like right after it like KYLE, but he actually did that one other time you know and that's why I was trying to be careful never to, you know like. Like with BRENT and KYLE when they you know been together. I mean they you know would fight like cats and dogs and you just separate them. *[I'm just backtracking here and trying to avoid responsibility for those bruises which I had caused. While it was true that Kyle and Kassidy did fight at times, I believe I was just feeling incredibly judged by these officers asking me questions. It is difficult to "own" that you have hurt someone you love when you are asked something on the spot.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: You know what I mean? And I just don't want ever want them to see anything, you know like if I was gonna spank one of their butts and or whatever, you know.

RL: Are, are you saying that, that KYLE could of caused a bruise (inaudible)

CE: I know he did right around her eye area,

RL: No but I'm talking about when he grabbed her at...

CE: Oh.

RL: ... by the chin.

CE: See he's more likely - I wouldn't, he's three years old. I don't think he could, I don't know I how the Hell do I know. *[I still don't understand how I caused the bruises on her jaw. I don't believe I applied that much pressure. I only held her jaw to get Cassidy's attention, or correct a behavior or stop a tantrum. Every discipline with both children was followed by an explanation as well as kisses and hugs.]*

LM: Did you ...

CE: He's, he's, he's definitely thrown things before you know what I mean?

RL: Huhuh.

CE: Like ...

LM: Oh.

CE: ... you know what I mean, they throw things at each other all the time that's what happened just a couple days ago. They were - were playing and she took one of his toys and he threw it at her and hit her with it, you know. And you know so he got a good time out for that one, you know.

LM: Yeah.

CE: But I mean if you know they just, there was a lot of, now most of the jealousy was caused when she would, when he would be sitting with AMANDA or something. Sometimes she'd go over and have little fits and whatever.

LM: Umm is there any other times when you know there might of been a bruise or something like that that you know accidentally or trying to you know put her over here or you know like say go stand in the comer type thing when you think like maybe a bruise might of come from from when you might of touched her.

CE: Very rarely did I, most of the time my contact was like right there you know ... *[I did occasionally put Cassidy into the corner for a time-out, but my major form of discipline was a quick hold of the cheek area to get her attention, and then move on.]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... just like if I was gonna do ...

LM: Sure.

CE: ... anything it be like no you didn't listen to me, you know you need to look me in the eyes.

LM: Did that ever cause any other bruising in the past? You know maybe, you know once or twice something like that?

CE: (Inaudible) Yeah I'm sure. But I mean not, Jesus I don't want you guys to get the thing that, think I

LM: Oh no.

CE: You know, but I'm sure - Because one other time, there was one when I was actually jumping with her on the trampoline.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: And ...

LM: What happened with that?

CE: While we were jumping I jumped her off the edge of it.

LM: Oh really!

CE: I mean ...

LM: Was it outside or inside?

CE: Yeah it's a huge outside opening.

LM: She got some bruises? Cuts or something?

CE: Well, no I mean she didn't - I reached out and caught her.

LM: Oh I see. When you caught her did that. ..

CE: I caught her like - She was bounced, she was kind of far away, I grabbed her with I think it was just out with my hand ...

LM: Right.

CE: But I grabbed her right in the face and brought her in, but it's a lot better than her dropping, dropping and breaking her neck. *[I actually grabbed her hand as she was falling backwards. This near accident was the basis for the "trampoline story" which Amanda would later tell some of her friends to cover for the ginger tip marks I left on Cassidy's jawline while trying to get her to make eye contact with me. I believe this trampoline incident occurred just prior to my birthday, October 15. I was nervous and sure this story would be told to the police by others, so I felt I needed to continue the fib rather than taking responsibility for causing the fingertip size bruises when holding Cassidy to make eye contact. The complete truth would have been more believable, and might have reduced the officer's suspicions.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: She was a good four feet up.

LM: Good three/four feet up, yeah sure.

CE: And the thing is 3 1/2 feet off the ground and she was probably six inches off it you know.

LM: Yeah. Do you think that you know in the past like has AMANDA you know ever caused any bruises on her or anything like that?

CE: The only other time I was thinking of I just...

LM: This is for you?

CE: Yeah. One other time she actually swore and I went like this, I'm Like "you don't swear."

LM: Huhuh.

CE: That's a naughty word whatever. And AMANDA made a comment. she's like if you - she's like "don't hit her face I don't want any bruises." Because she's always falling, always you know what I mean?

LM: Sure.

CE: And like that's the most exposed area you know.

LM: Humm.

CE: I'm like "Jesus it's not like I smacked her", all it is like you don't, "you don't swear" or whatever so I want her to know that...

LM: Did that like cut her or anything?

CE: No, no, no, no, I mean I'm talking it was like this. *[Kassidy was obviously just repeating something she heard one of us adults say. I flicked her lips with the back of my fingers no harder than you would shoo a fly away from your corn on the cob. It was very gentle, and didn't leave a bruise or mark of any kind. It didn't hurt Kassidy and she didn't cry. I was just telling the officers about this in the interest of full disclosure, as I was trying to think of anything, or any way I might have disciplined Kassidy.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: You know. But I guess the reason I was bringing that up was because she made a comment, she's like if you're going to reprimand her, hit her in the legs that's what I do and I've only seen one time that I really noticed that I thought she did something. There was like four or five black and blues on her leg. *[I'm not sure why I launched into this long explanation. Amanda would on occasion lightly swat Kassidy's diaper if she was misbehaving. Kassidy at one point laughed it off and Amanda got angry and lightly swatted Kassidy's legs. I honestly don't believe the bruises I saw were from this. I believe the bruises that I saw on the back of Kassidy's legs were part of the spanking episode from Jeff.]*

LM: Where, where did she hit her on her leg, do you remember?

CE: No I don't. I don't know if it was inside or out. I'm just being completely honest with you. *[Any other bruises I ever witnessed on Cassidy's legs I believe were normal everyday kids' stuff: running into things, falling off of something, etc. They never concerned me because I had seen similar bruises on Brent and Kyle. Despite the fact that Cassidy was a peanut, she was tough and played hard.]*

LM: Yeah. That's all I want, just your honesty

CE: And I said to her, you know "what the hell is that from" and whatever and she's like "you know" because I think JEFF was kind of starting to watch her at that time she's like "I did that" (inaudible) getting on her. But see that's - AMANDA would sometimes hit her but she'd literally would be like that .hard. Sometimes she'd bruise from that. Because she ...

LM: Bruised easily?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Yeah.

CE: I mean - So I said to her "Jesus AMANDA maybe your kid is anemic, you should start feeding her some red meat or something." *[I wish we had seriously looked into this problem. It may seem to be a convenient excuse, but Cassidy really did bruise easier than anyone I had ever met. I guess because of her very fair skin tone, I assumed it was natural. Even my roommate, Travis, noticed and commented once. She would sometimes fall and not make any attempt to break her fall by putting her hands out. It wasn't a far fall and even when falling on a carpet she would sometimes bruise on the underside of her arm or chin if that hit first.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: You know.

LM: Yeah. Yeah. Any other times that you can think of when ...

CE: That I noticed her hit.

LM: No like if they're gonna put her in the comer, or go your bed or go stand over there where you know, I know like when, when I was growing up my, my father would grab me by the arm "you're going there buddy."

CE: No you know what? A common thing for her actually speaking about the comer, sometimes she wouldn't go and I'd actually go right there just like hold her there.

LM: How would you hold her.

CE: Let's say you were standing there or whatever

LM: Huhuh, yeah.

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: I'll go right over there, you want me to stand like this?

CE: Yeah. Well say you were there whatever and she's like coming up, but no "you need to stand there ... "

LM: Okay.

CE: ...in you're in a time out you know kind ... *[On these occasions, I would physically hold Kassidy in the corner, with my arms under her arm pits or whatever. No real force was necessary as she weighed about 25 pounds. As I previously mentioned, Kassidy would have these incredible temper tantrums on occasion when Amanda or I would send Kassidy to the corner. She would run to the corner, screaming and crying all the way without slowing down, until she hit the corner. It was then that real tears came because she hurt herself. Amanda or I would go pick her up and cuddle her. Lost for the moment would be the original reason we sent her to a time out.]*

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: Oh that's ...

LM (Inaudible)

CE: ... that she ...

LM: Right.

CE: Every time that what, what AMANDA said to me - like one time when I sat her in the corner she went and I mean she friggin I mean face plant that's what she would sometimes do. Just like pull it out...

LM: She'd - did you like, did you, you know put it this way ...

CE: No I was, it was in our, it was in my bedroom and I was sitting on the bed, you know I don't remember what she did but I was like you know "you got a time out go in the corner." So she ran and started crying, run over the corner and slam right into the thing and she just gets like freaken bruise" I'm like "Jesus Christ." AMANDA is like "Oh God" and she started laughing, she was sitting right there and she's like "we got to have padded comers for her don't send her to the comer without..." *[In our bedroom, we often had a pile of clothes on the floor. On one particular occasion, Kassidy tripped on the pile and did a "face plant" right into the corner (near our closet). You have to remember that Kassidy had the baby clumsiness of a 21-month old. In addition, she was pigeon-toed and the majority of the time, when she started running, it would result in a fall.]*

LM: Sure.

CE: " putting your hand in from of the thing because she does that every time like we send her to the comer," fucken slam. *[Amanda wasn't laughing maliciously. It was just funny in the moment because we could see it in like slow motion. Kassidy was very smart. I'm not so sure that she didn't figure out that flying into a time-out enough to make a thud got her out of trouble. We literally would sometimes follow her over to the corner and hold her hands up so she couldn't whack her head into the wall.]*

RL: Do you need anything to drink? Want a soda?

CE: Do you have any water. Kind of want one of those Zenedrine diet things.

RL: Ha-ha, okay let me, let me take that and I see if I can get you some.

CE: Yeah.

RL: Some water.

CE: (Inaudible)

(Det. LECLAIR & MCCLEISH leave the room)

TAPE #3 - SIDE A

LM: All right.

CE: Giving me a hard time. How's AMANDA doing?

RL: Na, well ..

CE: I know.

RL: I mean ...

CE: I really want to see her. *[I couldn't imagine what she was going through and I just wanted to be there for her and hold her and comfort her. I had been asking to see Amanda since I arrived and everyone kept telling me "in a while..."]*

RL: You lose a child ...

CE: Is she still around?

RL: She with - her sister and I think her mother came down from ...

CE: Yeah (inaudible) *[I saw Jackie in the waiting room when she arrived. She hugged me, and was crying and, referring to Jeff Marshall, she asked, "Oh, Chad, what did he do to my baby?"]*

RL: Oh you, you mother - Oh I didn't know that.

CE: Yeah

RL: (Inaudible) at all.

CE: She been here a while.

RL: Okay it's. You're all set with your water and ...

CE: Yeah

RL: You still haven't eaten that (inaudible)

CE: Na, going nuts man. Stick to the water. *[I appreciated the offer, but I couldn't even think about eating anything at that time. Cassidy may not have been my biological child, but I felt like she was my daughter.]*

LM: Got to go to the bathroom, anything?

CE: No I will have to go in a few minutes but it's not brewed up yet.

(Cell phone rings)

CE: That's one of the people I couldn't get a hold of today, I was suppose to meet.

RL: Who's that?

CE: Actually it's from my mother. That's all right, I'll call her a little later.

RL: (Inaudible) They always page at the wrong time.

CE: Yeah I told her when I got here (inaudible) *[Detective Avery had allowed me to call my mom from his office, and tell her that Kassidy had passed.]*

RL: Okay. So last night you said TRAVIS got home at what time?

CE: I want to say I was probably there a half an hour, 40 minutes.

RL: Okay, 45 minutes and it was just you, you, TRAVIS and ...

CE: KASSIDY and KYLE.

RL: KASSIDY and KYLE. Last night - what was the the bruising on on KASSIDY?

CE: Well like I said I think it was just, she had a little thing right around her eye, well there was a spot on her other eye that I hadn't really noticed until I started looking at her.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And AMANDA called and I asked her about it and she said "it's been there a couple of days" or whatever. She didn't really get into details.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: And then where - Then those right around her left eye I think and then - I mean she still has a bump on her head from like the, that I've noticed ...

RL: Huhuh.

CE: ... when I rub her - when I was combing her hair, I felt it, holy shit. The thing still hasn't gone away. *[As I recall the two bumps were kind of side by side on the top, back half of her head. You asked about the cause. They were there after the fall from Jeff's truck. If it truly happened, it was the cause. I believe during testimony, that Dr. Greenwald testified that there was no "eggs" on her head. I guess I could have been wrong and the were gone by then but I could swear that when I was coming her hair after her bath, I still felt slightly raised spots on her head and was amazed they were still there. Of course, they were not as nearly raised and as big as they had been right after it happened. Right after the truck incident, when Kassidy came home, those two eggs were HUGE. God, do I wish we had taken her to the doctor right when she arrived home!!! It's hard to understand it when I look back on it. At the time, Kassidy wasn't whimpering or anything she was just acting like she was sick with a cold or something. I didn't like the looks of those eggs but I knew that getting hit in the head with something for some reason created and exaggerated bruise and I thought that is what had happened. (At the time, I had no idea either about the extent of her fall., the various versions Jeff told, or which might be true.) I know that several times as I child I get hit in the head and almost immediately a HUGE egg formed where it happened. I recall one time specifically in a little league baseball game, I was in a pickle between 1st and 2nd base and the 2nd baseman hit me right in the forehead with the ball. It hurt like hell, within a minute or two, I looked like a unicorn and could see this huge bump on my forehead. In hindsight, that fluid bump on my forehead went away within a couple of days. Kassidy's eggs lasted much longer. I think that may have been why I was more worried and surprised when I felt these slight raises in her head on the 8th when I combed her hair.]*

RL: Okay.

CE: And she's got a bruise on her foot where ...

RL: What's the deal with her, with her foot?

CE: JEFF said he stepped back on her but I don't know.

RL: Okay, does she have any marks on on her feet?

CE: She has a - a scar. *[Actually, she had pin prick type marks on the bottoms of her feet. I found them one night when I was flying Kassidy upstairs like Superman. I called Amanda into the stairway. She had planned to talk to Jen and Jeff about them because Kassidy had been at their house and these marks were not there when she left in the morning. Amanda addressed it with them and Jen told Amanda that Kassidy sometimes walked around barefoot and this likely happened when she stepped on these little nail heads they had sticking up. (carpet strip) From then on, we sent Kassidy's "Elmo" slippers with her whenever she was going to Jeff's. I was pretty upset about this.]*

LM: where's that at?

CE: On the top of her foot. AMANDA was over one of her friend's house or something and the - I think she leaned up against the curling iron or something.

LM: Something that was on the floor?

CE: On the floor, yeah.

LM: Okay.

CE: Burned it. That's what it looks like. Because I don't know, I don't think AMANDA would actually no [sic, know] this - no she wasn't there. Her, this friend was watching her and then I'm like "what the hell happened with her." Oh she must of fell on ...

RL: Who was this?

CE: (Inaudible)

RL: CRYSTAL?

CE: Yeah.

RL: How long ago was this?

CE: That was a while ago. Probably about a (inaudible). But I don't really know Why. I'm just telling you there might be a scar, I didn't really look for it or nothing. But you could see where it's visibly a big black and blue *[It was difficult with all the emotions I was feeling right then to think about everything I may have observed on Kassidy's body. It wasn't as if I was inspecting it. She may have had other marks or bruises, but there was nothing that stood out to me as abnormal. For example, Kassidy often had a bruise on her back from the way she would lay back and slide down the stairs. She may have had such a bruise on the 8th when I gave her a bath, but it didn't stand out in my mind.]*

RL: Yeah.

CE: JEFF stepped on her foot.

RL: Huhuh. Okay CHAD would you mind moving your chair?

CE: No that's fine.

LM: It's kind of in the way.

CE: No it's fine.

RL: Yeah I know you try to get comfortable but, it's like you got a wall and you're talking over you know.

CE: Right, yeah.

RL: You know Home Improvement, like talking to WILSON over the wall.

CE: There you go. Yeah I'm just. ..

LM: So CHAD you - I just, I just want to kind of get a couple things clear in my head just to make sure that I, I totally understand you know

CE: Yeah.

LM: Like you know what you did last night. So you said you, you worked all...

CE: All day at Hampton. *[Actually, I started my day in Rochester, briefly. Then I went to my office in Portsmouth, and stopped by Greenland; and spent the rest of the day at the Hampton store on Route 1.]*

LM: All day and then you know you picked up KASSIDY at your - JEFF'S house.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. Did, did you go anywhere else before going to JEFF'S house?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Where did you go?

CE: I went to Moonlight Reader.

LM: What's that?

CE: It's like an adult book store.

LM: Okay.

CE: I bought something two months ago and they double charged me for it so I went to get a credit on that.

LM: Okay. How long would you say you were there?

CE: The guy was a retard, probably 15 to 20 minutes to get a simple credit done.

LM: Huhuh. And then did you, did you go and pick up KASSIDY right after?

CE: Yeah. Because I had, I had to fly then because ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ...I was gonna be late getting KYLE. His school closes right at 6.

LM: Okay.

CE: So (inaudible) deep shit not getting him on time.

LM: So did you, did you make any phone calls to anyone?

CE: Yeah I called JEFF.

LM: You did?

CE: And I said what do you want, I said what do you want to eat [*it was "where do you want to meet"*] because he's kind of weird about me seeing his house for some reason. He doesn't want me

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ... see where he lives. And - So I called him I said "do you want me to meet you at your house" or because you know, earlier AMANDA said call him and he'll meet you somewhere...

LM: Okay.

CE: ... with KASSIDY. Which it would of been more convenient to be honest with you because I could of just met him in Newington at the McDonald's and been closer to pick up KYLE.

LM: Okay. And where did you, where did you suggest that you could meet? Did you ...

CE: No I just said, do you want to meet somewhere? Because, okay I'll give you for instance: Two weeks ago it was the first time that I remember that I was, yeah that class, probably the first class that I was watching her after.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I said to JEFF I'm like why don't I just come over and "No, no I got to go out anyway. I got to go to Sears." I'm like okay. So do you want me to meet you in the parking lot somewhere. He said "okay".

LM: So is that adult book store the only place you went? Did you go to any other places? Are you sure? Did you stop at any other places on the way?

CE: Well no I went to, I left from my McDonald's, I'm trying to think here .

LM: What was the name of that store again?

CE: Hampton?

LM: No the store?

CE: Oh Moonlight Reader. I don't think ...

RL: It's an adult book store?

CE: Yeah. Let me see, what did I do? I went...

LM: Did you go to ...

CE: Actually I went to Shop & Save. *[In Hampton to grab a protein bar. I ran into my friend, Mandy Allard, who was also the daughter of my secretary, Melissa. Mandy was working at Shop & Save that night. We hugged and we walked out the door together, talking for a minute.]*

LM: Did you go to any like strip places?

CE: No.

LM: You didn't?

CE: No.

LM: Have you ever heard of Pete's Palace?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Does that ring ...

CE: That's what that is, Moonlight Reader.

LM: Is that the place?

CE: Yeah. Moonlight Reader is Pete's Palace.

LM: Oh okay, I didn't know that.

CE: Well it's, it's not really Pete's Palace anymore.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: It's a, that's how I found out when I went there because I didn't know what that charge was on my credit card, it was Moonlight Reader. And so I'm like ah that's kind of a better name for it I guess.

LM: Humm.

CE: But it's right there on, right on Route 1 here, I mean 95.

LM: We had talked earlier and I think we touched on you and AMANDA ...

CE: How did we meet and all that.

LM: Right. Has anything ever gotten physical between you two, as far as you know maybe a fight or an argument or something like that getting, not totally out of control but maybe a little bit?

CE: Yeah I believe we got into an argument. She's got a - I've, I've got a little bit of a temper but not one of the things that, I mean after the whole thing with TRISTEN I went and found out that you sometimes I can be a control freak you know. And I went and saw a counselor, kind of like help me deal with a lot of stuff you know. Like I never got worked up after that you know. *[I sought the help of a counselor after the Tristan experience, because I wanted to be a better person. I didn't want to hurt people I loved. That counselor was very helpful.]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: With a lot of stuff you know. But we got into it a few times over the stupidest things ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ... you know like she'd get freaked out about, you know like an ex-girlfriend calling or or something like you know, she always like throw shit.

LM: Humm.

CE: You know so she'd throw shit at me. It's probably I can only think it was like twice you know but. *[Right now, I can recall a half full can of beer. I recall an arm load of laundry, etc. It's hard to remember. It wasn't like these things hurt. To be honest, sometimes I thought this little temper thing was sexy.]*

LM: Did you guys ever hit each other?

CE: No never hit. Just mostly you know, she would, yeah actually she did slap me a few times.

LM: Okay.

CE: But that - usually it start with her throwing something and I'd chase her you know and it's kind of actually more fun than any but she, she'd be like "Why are you such an asshole? I can't believe you still talk to her and her whatever" and then slap me whatever. So then I'd grab her and just throw her on the couch or something. Say "don't fucken slap me" because I don't need to get into this physical shit, you know what I mean.

LM: So there has been some, some physical.....

CE: Not - Yeah I want to make it very clear, not physical. I mean not if I like beat her up, if I hit her, have I done anything like that? Absolutely not. *[Yes, there was some physical stuff between Amanda and me. I think it is kind of a natural reaction to deny it when you are being interrogated and feel like you are being judged. Amanda and I had a physical, passionate relationship. We fought hard, played hard and loved hard. I regret that I didn't always use some of the tactics I learned and reviewed with my counselor when things got physical - but that was about my relationship with adults, and not with children, with whom there was never any problem.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: Never.

LM: What would I say -What would you say if I told you that, that she told us that things might of gotten out of control at a McDonald's party one night.

CE: A McDonald's party?

LM: Yeah. So why don't, why don't you tell me about that?

CE: Okay, let me think. McDonald's party? *[I was thoroughly confused at this point. I didn't recall a "McDonald's party." Complicating the question was that Amanda and I were scheduled to go to Maine the next day for an overnight weekend McDonald's management function.]*

LM: Yeah. Did you choke her?

CE: No I'm trying to think. I don't even remember going to - I'm being dead serious with you McDonald's party. The only times I've gone places with her I went with her with JEREMY and MELISSA, we went to her, JEN'S apartment, I mean MELISSA'S apartment to play cards. No we didn't have a fight then. *[For some reason, the "McDonald's party" thing had me drawing a blank. It was likely because I didn't think of the Colley/McCoy dinner function at the Exeter Inn as being a "party." I was not trying to be deceptive here.]*

This is a PERFECT example of how "scatter brained" I was during this process. I have gone over this question repeatedly in my head and am 99.9% confident that I have never been to Melissa's apartment (presumably Melissa Chick), to play cards or anything. I believe I am confusing Amanda's friends here. I recall going with Amanda, Jeremy, and Cathy Nuernberg to some party in Maine where we played cards. I don't recall where the party was, it was about 45 minutes from my house. I believe we were just playing drinking games, Up and down the river, guts, etc. It was early on in my relationship with Amanda and it was a Saturday night because we slept in the next day. Anyway, if Amanda and I played cards back then, it was rummy or drinking card games with friends. Back to the original mistake, I had so many thoughts in my head during that police interview, mostly not being able to grasp the reality that Cassidy was gone, it is a wonder that I didn't screw up even more names and friends, and games that were played, etc. Throw on top of that the pressure I was getting from the police. Even when they weren't saying anything, it was in the "air" and the "feeling" in the room was I was their man.]

LM: So that never happened, is that what you're telling me?

CE: I'm trying, can you get more specific like when, where, or anything?

RL: Well how about did you ever choke her?

CE: No .

RL: That's pretty specific.

CE: Yeah that's very specific, no.

RL: Did you ever assault her?

CE: Like hit her, anything like that?

RL: Yeah.

LM: Like whatever.

CE: No.

LM: Okay. I'm gonna be real up front with you okay. 'We've talked to a lot of people here tonight and, and I do know a lot about you okay.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And, and like I said all I ask, all I ask from you is just the truth.

CE: Absolutely.

LM: Okay.

CE: And I think I've been very good about giving you the truth.

LM: You have up until this point. Now I just want to get a few things on the table. If, if something happened with you and her, if there was a choking incident or something like that I don't want you, you know to to misrepresent something to me. I want you to be up front and tell me the truth, that's all I'm asking.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. Listen, do you want to tell me about that?

CE: I - I'm being completely 100% honest with you. I'm trying to think of a McDonald's party that I went to with her. *[The officer had asked me a bunch of questions since first asking about this "party", but I was still thinking about this question and was unable to figure out what they were asking about. I was apparently fixated on that term, "McDonald's party", and unable to think more broadly about what it might be that they were asking for. Our baby had just died which was extremely distressing, and it was hard to concentrate, and I was coming to see that they were accusing me of lying, though I didn't yet see that they were actually accusing me of killing Cassidy.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: That, that this you know what I mean.

LM: Okay.

CE: If you want, actually if you want to just want to pause for a second let me ...

LM: Okay, I'll give you sometime to think about this.

CE: I mean I'm just trying to think of where I've gone with her with McDonald's people. I've gone to ... *[Considering the mental state I was in, I think it would have been helpful if the officers would have asked me questions directly, instead of assuming that I knew what they were talking about, and, worse, lying. Such direct questioning would have saved the police and me much aggravation, and would have led to clearer answers on my part. In this example, the police apparently thought I was trying to be evasive, when, in fact, the wording of their question left me clueless; and they were apparently more interested in showing that I was evasive than in getting real information.]*

RL: Well (inaudible)

LM: Yeah. Have, have you ever, has there ever been an incident where things have gotten you know more than just her hitting you or throwing something at you?

CE: Yeah. Well that's, no I mean. That's exactly it right there. If she'd, is she'd hit me with something or throw something at me or whatever... .

LM: Okay.

CE: ... you know I mean that's happened like I said a couple of times. And then one time I mean I did like physically sat on her, like "stop you got to calm down." And then she's like "Oh leave me alone" you just calm down. *[As I recall, we were both drinking. It was one of the nights when our friends Bruce and Michelle stayed over our house. We had gone to a dance club in Dover, and both couples were arguing there. We left and went home. We continued drinking there. We were outside on the trampoline. Then Bruce and Michelle started arguing about something, nothing physical. A few minutes later they were done and Amanda was picking at me for something. I don't recall what exactly. Of course, I then said something smart assed and she was trying to slap at me. At this point we were over by my garage. I had a recliner in there at the time. I grabbed her wrists and she pulled back away from me and ended up in the chair kicking at me so I sat on her and told her she has to calm down. I recall after the event Michelle kind of giving me hell and telling me to walk away because I am so much bigger and stronger. Michelle and Bruce became my friends right after my split from Tristan and I was very candid with them about my domestic situation with Tristan and how it was something that I was working on. Michelle got after Amanda for starting the fight with me. It was as if Michelle really understood each of us intimately. She recognized the passion and also the allure for Amanda of being with someone that could be a "bad boy." Michelle said something to the effect of, "Amanda you have to grow up. I know you like being close to the "edge" and seeing how far you can push him but "it's" always just under the surface for him and it's something he is always going to have to be aware of. It's not really fair for you to intentionally try to push him." When Michelle said "it's" I believe she was referring to my ability to deal with anger constructively. Not that Michelle thought I was psycho or something just that sometimes I may react without thinking first. Where Bruce would likely just walk away from Michelle during an argument, I would stay right there, trying to make my point and would grab at Amanda if things got to that point. It's not something I'm proud of. It's just who I am. In a sick sort of way, it was as if Amanda knew she had this power over me. I didn't really see it then but I do now. It's obvious that Michelle saw it.]*

LM: Okay. Where did that happen at?

CE: That happened at my house.

LM: Okay. All right.

CE: And actually know what I'm pretty sure

LM: Okay.

CE: I'm trying - McDonald's party, I'm like you, you really got me stumped here like I don't, I can't think *[The word "party" was still throwing me off. They could easily have given me more information, which they obviously had, such as the location.]*

LM: You don't remember having an argument with her at some party where she was choked by you, is that what you're telling me?

CE: Yeah that's exactly what I'm saying. I can't remember a thing where like I went anywhere with her like and where we got - I remember going to a dinner function. *[Finally, the light finally 'clicked ON' for me that the "party" was a dinner function, and it was a Colley/McCoy event at the Exeter Inn in Exeter. Amanda and I had drunk more than we should have, especially since I was driving. She was upset because we saw at the event one of my ex-girlfriends and I talked with her. While driving home, Amanda's anger and jealousy increased and she slapped me. I stopped the car and reached over to her with my left arm and pushed her against the seat and told her to stop hitting me and stop the discussion. That was the end.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: I had (inaudible)

LM: Why don't, why don't we move on from that ok. *[It now seems that the police were more interested in a claim that I didn't admit to some allegation of domestic violence, because I couldn't remember the "party" they were referencing, than in hearing what I had to say about it.]*

LM: I want, I want to talk about KASSIDY now okay?

CE: Yeah.

LM: You know we talked to a lot of people.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: Okay. And everybody that we've talked to has been very up front with us ...

CE: Huhuh.

LM: ... and very straight up about what they've seen and what has happened ...

CE: Sure.

LM: ... okay in detail.

CE: Okay.

LM: And I'm not lying to you on that. I'm telling you straight up okay. I know that some, some things have happened a little bit more between you and KASSIDY okay. I know that there's been some, some incidences where things were maybe a little bit more physical with her than what you've told me about, okay. And all I'm asking for you is, is, is just be straight with me because you've been up front and I'm looking at you and and right now I have a lot of respect for you for telling me what you did ... *[It's interesting to read in 2010 that the police had "respect" for me, but they really didn't mean it, and it didn't seem to me that they were questioning the accuracy of what others were telling them about me.]*

CE: Yeah

LM: ... so far okay. But I want to continue that.

CE: Yeah I totally agree. Because as I said to you before, you know with KASSIDY I mean there has been no times ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: .. , very rarely am I ever alone with her. There's three times that I've watched the girl... *[I don't feel good now about my reference then to Kassidy as "the girl," but the atmosphere in the room was getting more hostile as the police were questioning my integrity and starting to accuse me; and I didn't like it. Kassidy left my house that morning with a "Bye-Bye," and I had come to the police station 11 hours later and was told that she was dead. It was a shock, and it was sinking in; and I was getting upset. I didn't like being accused when I knew I had nothing to do with causing her death.]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ...where you know I'd go to my friend, BRUCE'S house or whatever. We'd, you know what I mean, never. Very rarely am I ever - last night I was alone with her for half an hour and I already told you that - you see it's like this is exactly what I didn't want to get into. *[It was like those police TV shows I mentioned earlier in the interrogation. I was the last person to arrive, and they didn't know what happened to Cassidy, and they had talked to others. So they blamed me.]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: You know it's some pissing contest about things like ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: You know I felt weird that you know, how she was acting or whatever and I probably should of ... *[I was feeling not just "weird," but horrible that I had seen several bruises the night before, and had seen Cassidy's lethargy and drooling during the drive home, and had seen her fall in my driveway and had seen the Tee-ball hit her in the head; but I hadn't taken her to a hospital or called a doctor. I just had no idea that she was in potentially such bad condition. On several occasions when I was very concerned, she would resume acting normally, so I thought and hoped she was OK.]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ...you know done something. I mean I talked to AMANDA on the phone. I probably should of said something like "hey what the hell should we do here," whatever but I didn't.

LM: Right. Well...

CE: And I apologize for that.

LM: I'm gonna tell you. As far as your friend, JEFF goes those bruises and those marks didn't come from JEFF.

CE: Where they come from?

LM: Okay. I think where they came from is probably you might of had something to do with it.

CE: Me?

LM: Yeah. Okay. Well I'll tell you why I think that.

CE: Yeah, okay.

LM: Because there's some incidences here that you haven't told me about.

CE: Like what?

LM: There's some things, there's some things that we've you know talked to everybody else about and, and some stuff that, that I want to you know ask you about.

CE: Okay. *[Here, I should have just directly asked them, as I did later, to tell me what others were saying about me and give me a chance to respond. I wasn't thinking clearly, and was still stunned by Cassidy's death, which was a huge kick in the gut to me. The police had said earlier that they felt I was being truthful, though I doubt they believed what they were telling me; but they didn't give me a chance to respond to what others were saying.]*

LM: But you know actually before we get into that...

CE: You know before I get into anything else I mean like you know I honestly what I'm feeling right here is like, let me just tell you something. I've been the best parent in the world for my kid. You go, if you think I've ever, I have a stepson that I took on when, when the kid was three years old. I feel like you're sitting here accusing me of doing this. And all I can tell you is, you know never even, call my wife up who hates me right now and ask her if I've ever. One time I spanked his ass when he slapped his brother across the face. *[I was pretty agitated by this point because I didn't like what the police were inferring. Even my worst enemies would have told the police how much I loved children. The last thing I was going to do was intentionally hurt a child.]*

LM: I don't doubt that. I don't doubt that.

CE: So what I'm telling you is if I can take on another kid why would you think, you know what I mean. And now maybe we're to the point where it's like I feel like you're accusing me, maybe I should stop asking questions or something, answer questions.

LM: I - I don't doubt that and that's your, that's your privilege if you know.

CE: I mean I just...

LM: I don't doubt that you're a good parent.

CE: I'm, I'm trying to be helpful, I'm trying to you know but the thing is is like I don't, Jesus you know my stomach turned when I heard that you know, I was nowhere near that girl today.

LM: Okay. What, what do you think should happen to - Let's just say you know, what do you think should happen to the person that would do this?

CE: That would do what? *[Here the police were implying that somebody did something to Cassidy. At this point, I still had not been told how Cassidy died and was assuming it was due to a car accident or something.]*

LM: Cause injury like that to her, that that would cause her death okay?

CE: Not a good thing, sure.

LM: Yeah. What do you think should happen to him?

CE: Probably should string him up by the nuts or whatever. Certainly I mean kids no matter what you know, you know like I told you before one of the things that I've learned since being a parent is patience you know what I mean. *[Certainly, if someone caused Cassidy's death, I would have no mercy. She was innocent, defenseless and adorable. I still don't see how it could be possible that someone could have intentionally hurt her.]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: They can get irritating as all hell. *[All children can get on your nerves, especially when the crying is constant. It's not even then that you get irritated with them. It' the situation: you feel so helpless, especially when they are sick or upset about something and you want to take their pain away.]*

LM: Sure they can.

CE: But I learned the first time with KYLE like you he's colicky, he's sick you know whatever, I'm holding him, walking the floor for hours on end and I still have to get up at 2 o'clock in the morning. You know you just can't do shit, what is that gonna, what is that gonna do.

LM: Sure. What kind of a person do you think would do this type of thing?

CE: I don't know, I really don't. You know you asked me something about my stress. You asked me how's the stress of my job. You know I have stress with my job there's no, no doubt about it you know but not the type of thing where I'm gonna, you know it gets me so freaked out - I'm, I'm serving hamburgers and fries not making bombs, do you know what I mean? *[Up until my separation from Tristan in 1999, my job was much more stressful for me. Since then, I had realized that it was just a job. In 2000, I was taking more time off from work and enjoying more family time and was a happier person.]*

LM: Sure. Well listen I understand stress okay. If there's anyone that understands ...

CE: Yeah I bet you guys do.

LM: I do. And I know you know people do things for a lot of different reasons.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And and to no fault of their own sometimes they find themselves in a situation where you know they might regret something happened or maybe you know in the heat of a moment, you know a spur of the moment type thing. You know they might do something they might normally not do.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And a lot of that has to do with a lot of different things. It can happen you know with stress from your job. You know you're a hard working guy who's work, who's working ungodly hours. You told me yourself you're working seven days a week. Right?

CE: Huhuh. At times.

LM: At times. You know you're doing, trying to make some cash on the side. You were telling me about you know ...

CE: Get what I can.

LM: Sure. And you know I'm sure there's money you know, there's money involved. You know I'm sure that, you own your own home.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And you're trying to make your bills and that stuff can get very stressful you know. If there's anyone that understands that I do.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay.

CE: I'm very fortunate there I only 800 bucks a month. *[I was making over \$70,000 a year and my mortgage was only \$800 a month. I had a company car and no car payments for any other vehicle. I had an expense account, great insurance and no student loans. Money was not a stressful factor in my life. The police were fishing for possible sources of stress in my life, but they couldn't find much. I was happier in 2000 than ever before in my life.]*

LM: Oh that's not bad then.

CE: No.

LM: But sounds to me the way you're on the road a lot that that I would assume that you're pretty tired at the end of the day and I don't doubt that.

CE: Yeah, pretty tired. *[A lot of people get tired, and it doesn't make them homicidal. In fact, if they had asked anyone who knew me, they would have learned that I required very little sleep.]*

LM: But what I'm saying is is you know because of that, that type of stress or or any other reason that people might do something they might not normally do. That doesn't mean that they're a bad person. That doesn't mean that you know that they're a horrible person. You know it means that, you know they're reacting and and doing something, like I said they normally wouldn't do okay. So what, what I'm trying to tell you is you know if something happened, if it did, if it was a spur of the moment type thing or maybe she got some marks from you more than what you're telling me about, you know it be helpful for us to know that.

CE: Yeah, no I...

LM: Okay. You know I understand that you know the way, the way society is and you know everybody is always charging in your head, you got to get ahead, you got to get ahead, you got to work, you got to work and the the pressure keeps building. It keeps building in you.

CE: Huhuh. So I'm gonna go home and just beat up a kid? *[I shouldn't have been sarcastic at this point, but I thought the questioning was getting ridiculous. I should have ended the interrogation at this point, but I was still confident for some reason that I show them and persuade them how wrong their suspicions of me were.]*

LM: No, no I'm not saying that that's what you would do. But you know I've had my marital problems okay in conjunction with stress of a job and you know, I'd be lying to you if I said that there wasn't times when I you know felt angry or or was upset from how the whole day went and you know I just don't need one more thing. You know there's just

that one more thing. I'd be lying to you if I never felt that way because I have. I mean a lot of people have. You know that's the way unfortunately this world forces people to be.

CE: Yeah ...

LM: You know what I'm saying? That's how, you know it's, your a victim, most of us that are hard working guys and weren't born in the money or a victim of of the way society is.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And you know that's no fault of their own okay. It's no fault of their own. You know people try to work hard, they try to provide for themselves and for their family and they try to be successful to make people proud and things like that.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And that's all, that's all well and good and and through no fault of their own sometimes things just pile up a little bit. And if there's anybody that, that understands that I do. Okay. There's a mound on my shoulders every single day I come to work.

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: Right. And what I'm saying is you know someone like you who's, who's working those kind of hours, whose, whose got children of their own ...

CE: Huhuh.

LM: ... whose got that kind of pressure, who has you know a relationship you know, even though you think you're not sure if you want be a long term thing or a short term thing and she's got another child who could be difficult to deal with at times. A person like you, I look a guy like you and I say gees you know he's not, he's not too far from someone like me okay. That could easily happen to me where I feel stressful, you know things just, just don't seem, you know they just pile up. And that doesn't make anybody bad people or doesn't you know, you know what, what I'm getting at here is, is, is there's reason for why things happen.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: Okay there's reasons for why things happen.

CE: There's never - You know when I think about this whole thing you know and I'm like, I'm kind of sick to my stomach now. I'm sitting here thinking like the whole time like you know I wanted to see AMANDA. Now you know my whole concern is for her.

LM: Yeah.

CE: And for her kid and understand what's going on you know. I wasn't around her for two minutes today, you know. *[I was dumbfounded that the police seriously thought I had anything to do with Cassidy's death. I was literally with her for two minutes alone that morning when I took her into the kitchen, set her on the counter and let her choose her cereal. I knew that nothing happened the previous night, except the accident where Cassidy was hit by the Tee-ball, the effect of which I and others may have seriously underestimated. The police needed to focus on other possible causes of Cassidy's death. If others had been interviewed as aggressively as I was, and if the police had probed to verify some of the "facts" that they were hearing from others, and apparently believing, the real causes of Cassidy's death might have been learned.]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: And you know so I totally forgot, you know and I get put off from seeing her. You're not suspecting anything like maybe she doesn't want to see me because she thinks I would in it whatever. If ...

RL: Well AMANDA was spoken to for for a length of time.

CE:

RL: ... so (inaudible)

CE: Yeah I mean that's fine, I understand.

RL: Can we get back, ask you a question you know what kind of person could do this to a, to a child?

CE: Well I just wanted to answer it in my own way.

RL: Huhuh.

LM: Go ahead and do that.

CE: My way of answering something like is, you know I've never really gotten myself into the mind of you know what a person could do to a kid okay.

LM: Humm.

CE: But I certainly have looked at myself in depth you know at like and feeling like every problem that went on with my wife was my fault, you know what I mean. And thinking how the hell could I ever get physical with her. And then sometimes I've revisited like when, when AMANDA and I sometimes like we get that way and I just like stop. I've never ever hit that girl, never. Because I'm like there's no way I'm going there again, there's no way. So to answer your question you know on, on how I feel about it or whatever it's like, you know I believe wholeheartedly that that the thing with, with the kids. I mean what kind of person could do that? I don't know. Maybe somebody under stress fine, but that's, that's not me. I'm under stress yes, I'll give you that.

LM: I wouldn't expect anything other than that, just hearing from yourself. I mean so am I.

CE: Absolutely.

LM: CHAD we, you know like I said we've talked to some, a lot of other people and ...

CE: So I mean throw it on too. Tell me what they're telling you, I'll tell you if it's true or not. I mean, you, you try to understand. *[I was begging them to let me help them determine the truth of what others were apparently saying. I was confident that they would see that my word meant something to me. I wasn't intentionally hiding anything that could have related to Cassidy's death. Whether I held her chin, resulting in minor bruises, to obtain eye contact or to prevent her from falling from the trampoline shouldn't have made a difference. Also, the exact depth of my love for Amanda and the exact length of the time she and Cassidy had lived with me didn't seem so relevant to Cassidy's death at the time.]*

LM:

CE: Hold on. Look, try try to understand my position for a second. I mean I'm not trying to be rude to you guys at all. I think I've been trying to help you as much as I can because you know. That's one thing I don't need on my head and and you know and you think about it. I have two kids of my own that I've never even raised a hand to. Why in the hell would I somebody else's kid that I'm not sure of the relationship, don't you think I'd just tell them to get the hell out.

LM: Yeah, I don't know CHAD but that's where we're at.

CE: stay away from them.

LM: I'll tell you what, those injuries happened before she arrived at your friend's house today at 9 o'clock in the morning okay.

CE: Okay. *[I said "Okay," simply to acknowledge that I had heard what Det. McLeish was saying, but I was in stunned disbelief that I was hearing him accuse me of intentionally hurting, and thus, killing, Cassidy.]*

LM: Those injuries happened before then. The injuries that killed her happened before ...

CE: Huhuh. *[Finally, I was realizing they were accusing me.]*

LM: they arrived, okay.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. And you were with her last night okay. She died from major trauma. She didn't die from, from a baseball to the face or falling down out of the car or whatever. She died. of a major trauma.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: Okay. And that trauma can't come from accidents or falling down or anything like that okay. You were the person that was with her okay. A doctor examined that girl.

CE: Yeah.

.LM: And what I'm telling you is is after talking to everybody here our investigation clearly indicates that you are the cause of these injuries.

CE: Ahh, no way.

LM: Okay.

CE: No way. *[I simply couldn't believe what I was hearing. I was asking myself, "Are you people really listening to me?"]*

LM: I don't want to hear that, I don't want to hear "no way". What - clearly it indicates that this is what happened okay.

CE: I, I...

LM: No hear me out, hear me out please, just let me finish. You know these injuries before 9 o'clock okay. They did.

CE: 9 PM

LM: In the morning. No this morning, okay.

CE: All right, yeah.

LM: Or whenever she, whatever time was exactly that she was dropped off.

CE: Okay.

LM: Okay.

CE: Yeah.

LM: She was with you last night.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. And those are the injuries that caused her death.

CE: Okay, she was with me last night.

LM: Yeah.

CE: She was also with JEFF last night.

LM: Right.

CE: And I already told you she was acting weird.

LM: But these didn't come from JEFF okay.

CE: Oh but you know they came from me? *[Jeff Marshall was obviously saying that he didn't intentionally hurt Cassidy either, but why were the police apparently believing him and not me?]*

LM: Right. They did not come from JEFF. Okay so why don't we leave JEFF out of the picture here.

CE: What? See what is this, is like this big witch hunt that you bring me in last...

LM: No.

CE: ... and like listen to everybody else's bullshit all day ...

LM: No, no it's not a witch hunt. You arrived here last.

CE: Yeah. So how is it that they arrive, they came from me?

RL: CHAD why was the baby going to, to JEFF'S house and not a day care?

CE: Because AMANDA told me that, that she couldn't get into the day care and let's check out this one here in town and it was full. I mean it was too close to the road. She said also that she checked into two or three other ones just like I told you before and ... *[All they needed to do was ask Amanda about her calls to day care centers during the previous week. After re-examining telephone records, we now know that she made 14 calls to day care centers, including eight the day before Cassidy died. Also, I had asked Susan Edgar, the director of Kyle's day care center, about enrolling Cassidy, as both Amanda and I were trying find alternatives to the unsatisfactory care at Jeff's. She said that we had to wait until Cassidy was toilet trained.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: ... they were all full.

LM: CHAD that's not why she's not in day care. She's not in day care because of the bruising okay, on her. And you don't, you didn't want her to be seen with those bruises okay. That's why she's not in day care.

RL: You told us yourself that you didn't bring her to the doctor's ...

CE: I said because I was ...

RL: ... she had bruising.

CE: Right, absolutely. I mean ... *[Detective LeClair cut me off and filled in his own words to continue my own statement. I was hesitant about taking Cassidy to a doctor, to learn the reasons for the easy bruising, because I was afraid that the doctor and others would assume that I was abusing Cassidy, and that would be disastrous for my ability to see my son, Kyle. I was fearful that the doctors would jump to conclusions, just as the police were assuming in this interrogation that I had intentionally hit Cassidy. If I ever thought that Cassidy was in serious need of medical care, I would have taken her myself, or more firmly urged Amanda to take her.]*

LM: And we know that that's why she's not in day care too.

CE: That's, that's fine. But... *[I was feeling defeated. They were believing what they wanted to believe, and were not listening to me.]*

LM: I mean (inaudible)

CE: AMANDA said the same thing. She's like "Jesus I don't want to bring her looking like that." *[This specific incident was right around Halloween when Cassidy was ill and had flu-like symptoms. She had a few bruises on her face after returning from Jeff's care, and I may have been referring to the time where he brought Cassidy home after applying makeup on her face, before taking her shopping with Jen. The bruises they were covering came either from when his dog knocked Cassidy over or the time she fell face first off his bed when she stood up in middle of a diaper change and tripped on her pants which were around her ankles.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: "I don't want to bring her looking" ... But why don't you, you know what call TRAVIS up and ask him, you know has he ever seen her walk, I mean this girl is accident prone.

LM: I don't doubt that.

RL: We'll deal with TRAVIS.

LM: I don't doubt that she is accident prone okay. But what I'm telling you is these injuries didn't come from accidents. These injuries came from somebody inflicting them on her, that's what happened to her.

CE: And how did I do this?

LM: There's major trauma.

CE: In my kid in the car. I mean my kid in the house with me whatever.

LM: There's major - Well that's what I want you to tell me.

CE: Oh my God!

LM: Okay CHAD.

CE: This is impossible, I can't believe this.

LM: No, no, no we're here and it, you know it is possible. And that's why I want to get your side of the story here you know. I don't want to fill in the blanks.

CE: I told you every single thing that happened last night.

LM: Okay, you didn't tell me about holding her face under the water of the faucet. You didn't tell me about that and I know that you've done that to her, okay. Why didn't you tell me. Okay. Right. So what's up with that? You didn't tell me about that so you expect me to believe now...

CE: No that's not exactly what I did. I didn't hold her face under the faucet. *[Finally, I was told one of the stories that the police had heard. This surely wasn't relevant to Cassidy's death, but it apparently helped convince the police that I was an abuser.]*

LM: Well why don't you tell me what happened with that?

CE: She was having one of her screaming fits ...

LM: Okay.

CE: ... ,with AMANDA or whatever, she wouldn't listen to me and she wouldn't to her and I brought her to the bathroom sink ...

LM: Okay.

CE: And I just splashed water on her because I didn't hold her face under no ... *[I did it to shock her system. Cassidy was having such a tantrum that she was gasping for breath. I got scared when it seemed she could not breathe. Cold water was the only thing I could think of - and it worked.]*

LM: Why didn't you tell me about that?

CE: Because I didn't, this is exactly what I said when I want you to think about like my position, sometimes you do things you don't even really think about like that. To me it's, it's not a big deal. *[I wasn't purposely withholding anything important! Cassidy had just died and I wasn't thinking clearly.]*

LM: But what...

CE: I you know, I mean ...

LM: Think about my, hold on for a second but think about my position.

CE: Okay.

LM: If I'm, if I'm, if I'm asking you questions and you're not telling me the full story and I know the full story.

CE: Yeah.

LM: How do you think that makes you look to me.

CE: No absolutely, I agree. But the thing is is like if you remind me of something that I might of forgotten and this is kind of how "I manage my business you know. I mean if somebody - I talk to people that steal whatever, I mean if somebody gives you a little jog or something oh shit, I'm like I didn't hold her head under water, no freaken way. *[It appeared that the police thought I was telling them half-stories, and I was getting very frustrated because I was telling them what I could. I was apparently not convincing them. They seemed to have a cat and mouse game where they would tell me a little and then wait to show that I wasn't admitting to something or that I was minimizing, while they seemed to continue to believe the original story from someone else. I was begging them to just give me a chance to give my explanation of whatever others were telling them.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: I brought her to the sink. I admit that wholeheartedly.

LM: And what was the purpose of this again?

CE: And I just splashed water on her face and she just like stopped screaming.

LM: Okay.

CE: No I did not hold her head under water. No I did not. That's ridiculous, I can't even believe that shit.

LM: Now let me ask you this ...

CE: Is that what you were told, I - I held her head under the water?

LM: Let me ask you this then. Let me ask you this. Okay some of the bruising on her face and stuff was, was pretty fresh okay.

CE: Okay.

LM: Did you, did you maybe grab her face last night that.. ..

CE: No.

LM: ... would cause those bruises? You didn't do this type of thing to her last night?

CE: Absolutely not.

LM: Are you sure about that?

CE: I'm, I'm - No let me think.

LM: I want you to think about it because ...

CE: No,

LM: Like I said I know the answer to some of these questions and I want the truth from you.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. I don't want, I don't want to be untruthful here. So if something happened. Because look you know, there's there's ...

CE: No, you know I had ...

LM: ... there's ranges here. Okay there's ranges of extremes okay. And and you know, so you know I'm thinking one thing and if, and if you know something happened with the bruising or maybe if you did that last night well that will explain, you know that will answer my questions in my head.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay, there's extremes here so did you grab her face and that might of caused that last night?

CE: No I - Just like I said I picked her up went inside, no I wasn't mad at her at all last night. I was worried about her last night. *[This was so maddening to me. Yes, I had palmed her checks and caused superficial bruising in the past, but I didn't the previous night! She was acting ill and strange. I am at my most patient when the kids are like this. It wasn't as though she was being spoiled or bratty. She was sick!]*

LM: Okay.

CE: She wasn't - she just wasn't acting right.

LM: When you brought her inside.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Did she give you any hassle about going inside?

CE: No she didn't say a word she was, that's why I mean like just there.

LM: Okay.

CE: I mean she didn't whimper, she did nothing, I stood her there, I went over the other side because KYLE was throwing a fit and I opened his door, I said Jesus you can't just wait two seconds. I opened the door, let him out, he went to open the door, I go back she's laying there. I'm like "what the hell." And KYLE is like "Daddy why is she there?" *[If anything, it was Kyle who was being spoiled and a little bratty that night, of the 8th.]*

LM: Okay. How do you explain these injuries then that she's, she's died from? Okay she died from these injuries. How do you explain these injuries?

CE: I don't know what the injuries are. How do I explain that?

LM: Huhuh. They're major injuries to her.

CE: Right so

LM: Major trauma.

CE: Okay. What does that mean?

LM: That means major, major trauma inside.

CE: What did I take a sled hammer or something and hit her, no absolutely not.

LM: Okay.

CE: I can't even believe I'm I'm, holy shit.

RL: You came into the picture ...

CE: I can't believe this. *[I had offered to pick up Cassidy last night because Jeff was not good with her and I didn't want him with her any longer than he had to be. At this point in the interrogation I was wishing I had just let her stay overnight at his apartment, as was the original plan. Then Jeff and the police would have had a hard time blaming me. The only comfort I have in having her that last night is that she was held and cuddled by Amanda and me the night before she died.]*

RL: ... shortly after you came into the picture the baby started showing showing bruising. And this came from from JEFF and JEN. Prior to that everything, everything is all set.

LM: Right.

RL: The day he comes in the picture she shows bruises. They bring the baby to day care today, they walk directly into the bedroom, they're both in the bedroom, JEN and JEFF, and they say "Look at this".

LM: "Look at her face".

CE: They bring into what?

RL: The bedroom.

CE: Yeah.

RL: At JEN and JEFF'S house and they say "Look at this".

CE: Who said that?

RL: JEN and

LM: AMANDA.

CE: To JEN and JEFF?

LM: Right. About the marks on her face? CHAD you got to, I'm trying to work with you here.

CE: I, I believe me listen ...

LM: I'm trying to work with you here.

CE: The only thing that I think happened last night like I said, not even think I know was that she fell you know outside, I picked her up it was no big deal. *[At least, it didn't appear to be as important at the time as hindsight now might indicate. If the police were really trying to "work with" me, they would have listened to what I had to say and checked out the facts. Also, they might have paid more attention to the four and a half hour time that Jeff was with Cassidy on the day she died, and on the injuries and bruises which had occurred on previous occasions when she was in his, and Jen's care.]*

LM: CHAD people, people have seen things okay you know, there's no reason to hold back here because you know I'm asking you questions and a lot of these questions I know the answer to okay. Had any else, let me ask you this. What other kind of things maybe have been happened between you and KASSIDY. You know we've gone over the grabbing of the face and have you ever, let me ask you this. Have you ever picked her up by part of her body other than her arms or her legs?

TAPE #3 SIDE B

CE: ... Don't - Hear, hear me out. Like one of the things that I was you know getting at before was AMANDA said to me before "Jesus she's not Kyle you know, she's not a boy". Because like I'll pick her up like you know and swing her around and go on the bed and wrestle with her and whatever. *[I was trying not to be defensive here, but it was getting more frustrating. The police were listening to a bunch of crap and were not willing to listen to the facts. Yes, I wrestled with the boys (and with Amanda, too) and we would include Kassidy. She loved to have horsey rides on my back, with me on all fours, and she lived our spinning "helicopter rides," with me turning around and around while holding her by both her arms. She loved to be tossed onto the bed. She enjoyed flying like a superhero, as long as we didn't zoom around the room too fast. She loved to swing by her arms and also tip upside down and walk around on the ceiling. I never picked up Kassidy by her head. I had this thing that I always did with the boys that they loved and also I did with Kassidy. I would put my hands on either side of their head. They would then wrap their hands on my forearms and I would lift them. It gave them the illusion that I was lifting them by their head, when really it was my forearms and their hands which were bearing the weight. They would giggle and kick their feet as if they were running on air. For Kassidy, it was even easier, and she loved it. Amanda was not used to such play and sometimes felt that Kassidy wasn't ready for such physical games, but Kassidy enjoyed them, and she was never hurt by them.]*

LM: Just like - By her head?

CE: No.

LM: Well in a playing fashion or or what? (Inaudible)

CE: Yeah like - like not like ...

LM: But I want you to show me how you picked her up.

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: Okay you tell me.

CE: You know what I mean like.

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: For now.

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: So you've done that?

CE: Yeah but not like ... *[I might have continued this by saying, "Yeah, but not like, maliciously, like you are assuming.]*

LM: Okay but what I'm getting at is is that something that's ...

CE: Well more like yeah but it's - See it sounds like horrible but it's like a kitten you know what I mean. There like two pounds "Hey come here baby."

LM: Okay.

CE: You know what I mean?

LM: I do. I do.

CE: Not, no have I picked her up like maliciously by the neck The thought of that is you. know.

LM: Well these are things that people are telling us, okay.

CE: Yeah. *[I could have said, "Yeah, but they are telling you things that are untrue, or you are misrepresenting what they have told you."]*

LM: they've seen you do this stuff.

CE: No, that's totally - Do you know what?

LM: No.

CE: If I'm, if I'm a freaken abuser don't you think I'd be a little smarter than to hit her in the face ... *[I was trying every way I could think of to persuade the police that they were wrong to accuse me.]*

LM: Well...

CE: ... or something like that?

LM: ... now think about that. That's what I'm trying to get at. That's what I'm trying to get at with with talking to you about about it, not in a regular occurrence. That you know these things could be spontaneous.

CE: What that either I just loose my shit and ...

LM: It could, it could just be that way. I'll be right back.

(Det. MCCLEISH leaves the room)

RL: CHAD what was the baby wearing this morning when you brought her to day care?
Do you know?

CE: When she left the house?

RL: Yeah.

CE: I have no idea. *[I was not thinking straight by this point, because I was so frustrated with the interrogation. I would not have been able to tell you what I was wearing during the interrogation if my eyes had been closed.]*

RL: Do you know what what she wore to bed last night?

CE: Yeah she wore, I think I put her in one of KYLE'S t-shirts in the bedroom. I read her a story, sitting there TRAVIS, I mean it was right on the other side of the room hitting balls to KYLE. She was fine wh~n she went to bed. I..

RL: Huhuh.

CE: She went to give her a kiss at mid ... you know. It's fucken ridiculous.

RL: Were you awake when when AMANDA came home?

CE: Yeah I was sitting on the couch.

RL: Were you watching the election return?

CE: Yeah actually. I was watching some of that and flipping between MTV I think. But really I wasn't watching much of anything. I was doing my little survey job.

RL: Oh okay.

CE: KASSIDY I put her to bed at like 8 and put KYLE to bed at 8:45.

RL: Huhuh.

CE: I can't believe this shit. *[It was horrible enough that Cassidy was dead. It was even worse that I was being accused of causing her death.]*

RL: Huh?

CE: I said I just can't. ...

RL: Well it's, it's obviously a a tragedy.

CE: No it's it's horrible. I mean ...

RL: KASSIDY - KASSIDY died as a result of ...

CE: (inaudible)

RL: ... in miseries that that she didn't sustain by herself okay. Somebody else ...

CE: I'm not, see I'm not denying that at all. I mean I set here I didn't want you know, sit there and throw stones at at JEFF or anything like you know. Because - I mean I told AMANDA that last night. I told her you know freaken two weeks ago when when he slapped her ass that hard, at which by the way you know JEREMY, my friend has seen her ass like that. AMANDA told him he did it. AMANDA you know said it I think to my ex-wife. *[Amanda showed Kassidy's black and blue butt to Jeremy, Jennifer, and Travis. I believe Tristan knew about it. You have to spank a baby with some serious rage and force to turn her entire butt black and blue. Why was I the one who the police were focusing on? When Amanda called me from work on Wednesday evening, the 8th, I immediately asked her how the daycare search was going. I reiterated how bad Jeff was with her and that we needed to get her out of his care.]*

RL: What's JEREMY'S last name?

CE: HINTON.

RL: He's in Dover or Rochester?

CE: He lives in Dover.

RL: What's his phone number?

CE: 749-5280.

RL: When was the last time you spoke with JEREMY?

CE: No wait a minute, 5280 is my father-in-law's locksmith business, 7086. I spoke with JEREMY today, I called him about his soup cooker.

(DET. MCCLEISH reenters the room)

CE: ... to make sure he was ...

RL: Talk to him about what?

CE: Oh yeah you weren't in there. I was ordering some soup cookers.

RL: Oh yeah.

CE: They were trying the soups at at work .

RL: Oh okay.

CE: So I called him about that and then he - We were supposed to meet at Banana's tonight, but I couldn't get a hold of him so I had TRISTEN call everybody and have everybody just call me. Left a message on (inaudible)

RL: Huhuh.

CE: But I mean you know getting back to that point he - this was probably a month ago at my house, I mean you know now - I'm nervous. JEREMY was at the house and (inaudible) what the hell happened to her face. I said I don't know man, I said but look at this too. And I pulled her diaper down and showed him her ass. And he said "holy shit" - and he goes "Who did that?" And we were kind of talking quietly because you know I, I don't know it was just KYLE sitting on the couch any way (inaudible). And I told him JEFF did it. He's like "holy shit man if anyone ever did that to my kid" and then he went in and he talked to AMANDA about it I believe. She was ... *[Actually, it was Monday, October 23rd because Jeremy stayed over at our house the night before. We were leaving early on Monday morning to go to a Colley/McCoy golf outing. Jeremy saw that Cassidy had crawled into bed with us when we returned home that evening. Cassidy had fresh bruises on her cheeks and Amanda informed us that Cassidy was with Jeff all day at Jeff's apartment, as she and Jen landscaped for him. Those bruises were not on her face when we left. Jeremy saw the bruises on Cassidy's buttocks at this time, as well. Those bruises came from Jeff's spanking Cassidy the previous Friday, approximately, according to what he said to Amanda, Chad and Jennifer.]*

RL: JEREMY did that?

CE: She was in the office on the computer doing that project job and he told her, I think she told him about it.

LM: CHAD I look at you and I - And I'm not, this isn't a line of crap and you know I'm not sitting here, I'm not going to b.s. you but I look at you and and like we've talked before, there's a lot of things that we have in common here.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: We both play ball, we both like to work out, we seem to listen to the same kind of music.

CE: Yeah.

LM: You know I'm looking at you and I, I see a guy you know that I can totally understand.

CE: Yeah.

LM: What's been going the last, like say two months. You know you get hooked up with AMANDA they, they kind of you know, you guys get involved and ...

CE: Well that's like four months. *[Actually, when you do the math, it was six months and a week since I met Amanda on June 2, and five months since she moved to our home in early July.]*

LM: Four months. You know lets say the last couple months. I mean you know has anything been bothering you, you know as far as, any pressures or? *[They kept asking about pressures and stress, and trying to justify their theory that I was abusing Cassidy; but my life in 2000 was very good - until that day. My job was fine. My income was more than enough. I was in love and I was raising three children whom I loved.]*

CE: Well no. The only thing that bothers me you know is obviously is the little extra pressure from her like, like she wants me to just come out and say "I love you" all the time. And, and I've just couldn't, I stuck to my guns and saying "look AMANDA don't you want it to be real. Don't you want to be like when I'm feeling it. Don't you want it to be," I mean - but like pressures at work. I mean work is easy. *[There is no doubt that I loved Amanda. I just wanted her to be with me for the right reasons. I wanted her to feel loved when I said it. They weren't just words to me.]*

LM: No real pressure I'm talking about.

CE: I mean my marriage thing is, I mean my life has been better the last two months than it has for the last year and a half, I mean prior to meeting her. I went through hell with this whole divorce thing.

LM: How did ...

CE: Now my ... What's that?

LM: How are your finances?

CE: Fantastic.

LM: They're good?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Now what have you talked about...

CE: I mean my, the only thing like I have your typical whatever. I owe 56,000 on my house and I have 7,000 on my credit card, I have a company car.

LM:

CE: I make 70 grand a year so, I mean I don't have a problem ...

LM: You make more than I do.

CE: I don't have problems you know what I mean, with money.

LM: What's - I mean we talked about and like I said you know I want to put all the cards on the table here. And we talked about, remember how we talked about football?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Yeah. 'What's going on with that?

CE: Oh nothing really. I mean I have, I do ...

LM: Do you have some debt in that?

CE: Do I have any debt, no.

LM: You don't have any gambling debts?

CE: No, none.

LM: You have no gambling debts? Because we're ...

CE: Zero.

LM: ... we were told you have some gambling debts. *[For years, I was wondering who was telling them this garbage? Recent readings of other interviews indicate that Jeff Marshall said in his 4:12 p.m. interview to MSP Detectives Jeff Linscott and Scott Harakles, "...I've been over there and he's been gambling on football games and stuff...I knew he probably makes about a grand a week from McDonald's or maybe a little bit over, that's a lotto money when you're down 900 bucks on a pool for one week, that's a lot of money to me, you know..." Jeff's interview ended at 6:15 p.m., but MSP Det. Angela Blodgett asked Amanda Bortner early in her 5:55 p.m. interview about my gambling as follows, "...and that he has some gambling problems. He's like a \$1,000 behind?" [page 14] This is just one example of how the police incorporated misinformation into misconceptions about me. I was ahead in my betting for the year and it was fun and relaxing for me, Bruce Aube and Jeremy Hinton. Did the police consider going back to their source(s), Jeff Marshall and ????, about this allegation? An hour and a half after my interview started, the police interviewed Jeremy, and he told the police that "I just picked up a good chunk of money for him tonight." Eight pages later, he told them he had \$900 in cash in his car for me, but the police still tried to show that I was in so much debt due to gambling that I took out my frustrations on Cassidy. It was an interesting theory, but it had zero relevance to me. I don't believe that they asked Bruce about our football gambling.]*

CE: Not at all. Notta.

LM: See you told me you were ahead. You told me you were ahead.

CE: Absolutely. As a matter of fact I mean I made, see you know I'm trying to do shit that's illegal, well I mean obviously it's a small scale but let me let her rip. I made 450 bucks, actually yeah about 450 bucks last week, you know. I mean we, we're not talking big money. I don't bet like thousands of dollars. I'm talking we do, me and my buddy BRUCE bet 25 bucks a game you know what I mean. I mean 25 bucks each on a game or whatever.

LM: Okay.

CE: ... I mean and we, we're just very good at betting football you know.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I - I have one loosing week this year you know what it was? Like for 500 bucks.

LM: Okay.

CE: And that was between the two of us. *[So, my worst week for the year meant a loss to me of \$250.]*

LM: You know we talked earlier a lot about...

CE: Well let me ask you a question. What is, I mean what would gambling debt have to do with ...

LM: It's just stuff I was concerned about.

- CE: Oh and stress me. *[Now when the police find that gambling debt is a non-issue, they move on to other issues, hoping to confirm their theory that something caused me enough stress to beat Cassidy. When these "issues" kept coming up empty, it would have been helpful if the officers had started asking themselves who was pointing toward me and what did that person, or those people, have to gain or hide by doing so. Instead the police stuck to their theory of "frustration" and ignored the facts. As I've stated elsewhere, the previous five months had been among the happiest in my life, and Cassidy was part of that happiness.]*
- LM: I wanted to ask you about it. No, no, no I just, I wanted to ask you about it. That's something I've been told and I wanted to ask you about. Like I said you know I don't want to fill in the blanks for CHAD ...
- CE: Gambling debt? *[But they were filling "in the blanks" for me with as much dirt as they could gather, hoping to show that I was the kind of person who could intentionally harm Cassidy. I wasn't. Trust me. If I had anything to do with Cassidy's death, they would already have broken me down.]*

LM: Okay, hear me out. I don't want to fill in the blanks for you okay. I just want to get your side of of everything that's going on in your life. Everything that's going on in CHAD'S life.

CE: Yeah.

LM: I can't sit here and I can't you know tell you this and that. I'm not gonna fill you full line of garbage. I'm generally interested in what's going on with you. That's why you're here, you know we want to talk to you about what's going on with you.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: Like we were talking before, you know I'm not saying you know because you might feel pressure or something like that that you know you got problems in your head or anything. I'm not saying that all. I'm saying a normal man, an adult man is gonna feel a little bit of a pressure okay.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And having a child, actually two kids of your own that you're splitting the time with okay.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: That's got to be hard on you. I'm sure you're trying to make ends meet. You're doing good I'm sure but I'm sure that you know you're also, you got to monopolize you know your time and and dole out.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Little pieces of that and I'm sure that gets old because I know it gets old for me okay. I got to do the same thing. I'm sure that there's there's days when you're just dead tired.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And and you're feeling the pressure. I'm sure you are from AMANDA, you told me yourself about her wanting you to say that you love her and all this stuff.

CE: Yeah but that's not like, I mean pressure to me is like you know I'm dealing with, you know you got 12 people out of this store and you got to assign 16 shifts. That to me is the kind of pressure like, so that everybody can get served.

LM: Right.

CE: You know this kind of ...

LM: But don't you think it would be easier if if your girlfriend didn't have a child? I mean don't you think that...

CE: Oh ...

LM: Can't that make, that part makes it a little bit more difficult.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Because you got...

CE: Oh yeah.

LM: ... deal with her kid too.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. And

CE: Like it be easier if I didn't have a kid, don't you think that? *[At the time, I was thinking, "How do I get these people off these crazy questions? How do I get them to see that I didn't have anything to do with hurting Kassidy and that they were wasting valuable time.?"]*

LM: Totally. I'm sure it would.

CE: But I you know I wouldn't trade, he's the thing that kept me alive through my whole divorce thing. *[This entire line of questioning was ridiculous. Life would have been simpler if I didn't have to work, too. Kassidy was a great kid. I didn't want her OUT of my life, anymore than I wanted Kyle or Brent out of my life. I wanted her and Amanda to be IN my life.]*

LM: That's why I'm saying circumstances in your life are no fault of your own ...

CE: Humm.

LM: ... okay these are things that happen to everybody all right. And and you know looking at you, you know I'm sure that you had good days and bad days like everybody does.

CE: Yeah hey we all do.

LM: You know all I want to do is get to the bottom of this.

CE: Yeah. Me to. ***[THE POLICE SHOULD HAVE EXAMINED WHO WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, AND LOOKED FOR REAL EVIDENCE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, BEFORE IT DISAPPEARED, AND NOT JUST FROM ME.]***

LM: And you know, you know I'm sure that you want to tell me the truth. I'm sure that, that you think you told me some of the things here. Some of the stuff you've told me okay.

CE: I've been ...

LM: I feel like there's there's a little more that you're leaving out though.

CE: No, you know I've been completely honest and up front about everything. I mean from the ...

LM: Okay. I don't think you have been. I think that you've been less than truthful on certain issues.

CE: Okay.

LM: Okay?

CE: You can do that, you can think that that's fine or whatever. I mean ... *[I could have said to them here the same thought as before, "Please share with me what you believe I'm not telling you. It's as if you guys are searching for some hidden nugget that isn't there. I love Cassidy. I love Amanda. I love my life. I don't want to get rid of anybody."]*

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I'm ...

LM: Okay.

CE: ... when it all comes down to it you know like this this is a major thing ...

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... that you're basically telling me that you think I some how whatever did this to this kid.

LM: Yeah.

CE: And ...

LM: I do. And and and you know I don't think they came from from your friend, JEFF and you know... *[Why were they so convinced at this very early stage of the investigation that the injuries came from me and not from other sources, intentional or unintentional?]*

CE: For him to sit there. You know like here I am like not really, I don't know. Like I'm fucken kicking myself in the ass for it.

LM: Yeah.

CE: You know saying I want, I want, I don't want to get involved, don't want to you know.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: If I had probably any wits about me ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: And the first time that her ass was, her ass came back like that I would of said ...

LM:

CE: ... you know you need to leave AMANDA or you need not to have a kid. I mean you know what I'm saying?

LM: I do understand that. And I don't want to hear about anymore about JEFF okay. So let's just put JEFF away. *[To my knowledge, no investigator ever said to Jeff Marshall, "I don't want to hear any more about Chad, okay."]*

CE: Yeah but see it's okay for him to pin things on me, you know that's what. ..

LM: I don't want to talk about JEFF anymore okay. I want to talk about CHAD, that's what I want to talk about here okay. You know I know that the reason why you don't take that child to a day care is because she's got all those marks and bruises on her okay. And I know that's the real reason. It's not because

CE:

LM: No.

CE: And what did I say, she said that.

LM: Yeah. And and I also know that you know there there have been some other instances where you picked her up, you grabbed her, thrown her around a little bit I know that's the facts because they've told me that.

CE: Who's they?

LM: Okay. AMANDA ...

CE: Yeah .

LM: has told me that.

CE: Okay.

LM: Okay. She went in and she said look at, look at her face again this morning when she took, brought the kid over to to JEFF'S house.

CE: Yeah.

LM: You know I know you've done certain things to her and I just want you to be you know up front with me on it. If, if all I'm saying is a lot of these things might not happen intentionally type of thing okay.

CE: Oh my God! *[Still, the idea was incomprehensible to me. I could not believe that the police were actually thinking that I caused Cassidy's death.]*

LM: If, if you know I can totally relate here okay. If you know you grab her or something like that and you even said yourself, you know I've grabbed her face sometimes and it left a mark.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And what I'm saying to you is lots of times ...

CE: Done that twice that I can think of.

LM: Okay.

CE: As I said to you before.

LM: Yeah. And and listen, and I have no doubt that that that's what happened okay. But you're a big dude okay.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: And so am I. And lots of times I know for me anyway that sometimes I can do things and not even know I'm that strong.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And that's a fact.

CE: No I..

LM: Because I work out everyday too.

CE: Didn't really believe any of that crap.

LM: That's true though.

CE: Until I start wrestling with AMANDA and she's like "Jesus CHAD you don't even know your own strength."

LM: You don't.

CE: Because you know I'm like and we're just and this is wrestling okay.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: Okay, put that wherever, we're fucken around you know and having fun.

LM: And CHAD you know ...

CE: ... we're wrestling and she's like "Jesus do you realize how strong you are?" I'm like gees I'm sorry you know. *[I never hurt Kassidy in any way when wrestling with her, alone or with Kyle or Brent. Even though I was a strong adult, I was perfectly capable of knowing my strength when playing with children.]*

LM: That's right, you don't know your own strength.

CE: I understand that. *[It was easy at the time to agree with the police's flattering acknowledgment that I was strong, but I don't agree now with Det. McCleish's statement that I didn't know my own strength. I did know my strength, and I certainly knew how to play with children - and loved it. I was frustrated with the apparent irrelevance of my playing with Kassidy, Kyle and Brent, and Kassidy's death. I can remember Kassidy crying only once when I was playing with her, and that was when we did the "helicopter" by her legs. One of her legs was apparently already hurting her when we began, but I didn't know that. We stopped 'helicoptering' as soon as she began crying.]*

LM: And I can totally relate with that okay. Because I work out everyday just like you do and that stuff happens.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: Okay. That happens to dudes who work out...

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... and try to keep themselves in good shape, that's the way it goes. All right, so while I'm sitting here, okay I'm not thinking you know here that that you know you smashed somebody over the head with a brick or like using your own words with a sledgehammer okay.

CE: Humm.

LM: Or whatever you meant, whatever you said okay. I'm not saying that that's what happened okay. But what I'm saying is these injuries okay are major injuries. Now listen, hear me out.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. I'm not saying that they happened intentionally.

CE: Huhuh. *[I understood why the police were questioning me. I really did. After all, I was the man in the house where Kassidy lived. I didn't always treat Kassidy as patiently as I should have. I had acknowledged leaving fingertip bruises on her cheeks when seeking eye contact, and, I had had anger control issues before I met Amanda. However, the police were taking the path of least resistance, and jumping to early conclusions that didn't add up, and were contrary to the truth. Most of the officers investigating Kassidy's death had children of their own and seeing a 21-month old child that appeared to have been beaten to death was surely difficult. However, that emotion should have provided the motivation to be sure that the right person was punished.]*

LM: I'm not saying that it was something that you know you threw somebody out of a building you know something like that, but these injuries could of happened in accidental manner and and you might not even know it. You might not even know it. That that this could of been you know what happened okay. And that's what I'm looking for. If, if something happened okay while you were with her accidentally whatever, you know you just try to, you just got to tell me about it. Because if something happened and you go "nay" you know, I know this happened but gees these guys are not gonna believe me or they're gonna think that you know I did this on purpose so I'm not gonna, I'm just not gonna tell them. You know give it to me, give me a shot here. You know if something happened last night with her ...

CE: Huhuh. *[Nothing happened the previous night to Kassidy, other than what I had already told them, about her falling down in the driveway and being hit by the Tee-ball in Kyle's room. The police were struggling to find something that fit their theory, but there was nothing else that happened to Kassidy that night.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: I'm listening to you but I'm just you know ...

LM: Hear me out, hear me out.

CE: Okay.

LM: If something happened with her or or if you know she, maybe there was a little bit more than her falling down on her own or or you know you meant to get in the house or something like that or or anything that could of maybe caused some of these injuries that were intentional or not intentional. It could of been completely accidental, just tell me about that. Okay. *[I had already told them about the Tee-ball hitting Kassidy, but they seemed to discount that truth. Later at my trial, it was clear that the prosecutors didn't believe that a Tee-ball hit Kassidy in the head. It didn't fit the theory of the police and prosecutors, so they didn't believe that the accident occurred as I and Kyle stated. In addition, it may be that everyone, including me and the medical experts, underestimated the possibly serious effects of that accident.]*

CE: Let me, let me tell you the God's honest truth okay.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: Last night I think I was more and you know AMANDA if she's telling you all this shit, ask her about like when KASSIDY is sick ... *[I could have added, "Last night because Kassidy was not feeling well, I was even more patient with her. Ask Amanda how I am when Kassidy is sick.]*

LM: Okay.

CE: ... who's the one that's taking care of her.

LM: I don't like that.

CE: Hold on.

LM: No, no, no hear me out, hear me out.

CE: like shit...

LM: I don't doubt that.

CE: ... I was all over like just babying the shit out of her. I gave her a popsicle. *[I could have said at this point, "Ask Travis. He saw us sitting together. He saw her naked, playing in the tub. She seemed fine after she got over her glassy-eyed moments. As a matter of fact, he held her for a minute while I got her clothes."]*

LM: I don't doubt that CHAD.

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: CHAD I don't doubt that okay. That's what I'm saying about you. I don't think that you're a person who goes and hurt ...

CE: I know that's

LM: ... hurting kids all the time. Okay, well or does things like that on purpose. I don't think that that's the kind of person you are okay. I don't doubt that you're a good parent. I don't doubt that you love your kid and that you love KASSIDY. There's no doubt in my mind that you love that little girl okay. There's no doubt in my mind about that. Or or even if you didn't love her that you at least cared about her:-. --.

CE: Absolutely.

LM: Because she was your girlfriend's kid.

CE: Yeah. *[As my relationship with Amanda grew, I began loving Kassidy as a daughter. She was adorable. How could someone not love her?]*

LM: Okay. I have no doubt over that. I'm not questioning that at all "okay. What I'm saying is I know things can happen on the spur of the moment. I know sometimes you know things can happen and you go Jesus that was, that was you know I wish that hadn't happened okay. And I know that guys like you and me sometimes we don't even know our own strength and that's no fault of our own okay. That's just the way it is. That's, that's the cards that you were dealt all right. I'm not saying that you do stuff or anything, that you did anything intentional.

CE: Huhuh.

LM: But these are major injuries.

CE: Okay.

LM: These injuries other come from falling down or or you know running into a corner or something like that. That's not, that's not how these happen okay.

CE: I'm not suggesting that they are. *[What I was saying was that I knew nothing of any major trauma which might have occurred recently to Kassidy, aside from what I had already told them. I knew of nothing at the time that I thought could have caused her death. It may be, however, that everyone grossly underestimated in 2000 and 2001 the effects of the accidents which we knew about.]*

CE: I mean you ask me back then what what had ever happened with her and I've just been ...

LM: Right.

CE: ... as honest (inaudible)

LM: And I'm telling you those injuries happened last night and you were with her last night okay. And they happened before you took her over there and before you picked her up.

CE: Before I took her over where?

LM: Before you picked her up those happened before she was picked up by you last night.

CE: If they happened before...

LM: I'm sorry. Before she was dropped off this morning. Those injuries happened before she was dropped off this morning. She was with you last night. That's the fact.

CE: And I'm telling you right now man ... *[Det. McCleish had it right the first time. Cassidy was clearly not acting normally when I picked her up on the 8th, due to something that happened before. It might have been due entirely to a delayed response to the fall out of Jeff's truck window around October 27th, or the ingestion of Windex around that same time or to other incidents.]*

LM: I'm telling you (inaudible)

CE: And I'm just telling you that is complete, I babied the shit out of her last night, more than usual because she was sick ...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ... she was just laying there whatever.

LM: Why was she sick? Was she sick because something happened? *[Yes, she recently had flu symptoms. As stated earlier, she fell out of Jeff's truck recently, among other incidents at his apartment.]*

CE: No she's been sick, like she's had a cold or something for like a week but, what I mean sick is like she was just like - So I'm like what the hell. So I just fed her I whatever.

LM: Right now, right now the the initial, what the doctors have told me is ...

CE: Yeah.

LM: .. is some of her symptoms indicate some kind of a, a closed head injury which means something happened in there, in her head.

CE: Okay.

LM: Okay. That isn't like falling down and you know hitting your head on the floor ... *[Actually, we now know a lot more about head injuries for children and adults. The accidents which we knew about could have caused the head injuries which killed Cassidy. All I know is that I did not intentionally harm her.]*

CE: Yeah.

LM: ... or something like that.

CE: Okay.

LM: That only happens from one person to another right. Or somebody getting pushed or hit with something, something like that.

CE: Yeah.

LM: You know so, you know I don't want to hear that...

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: Do you want to see - I tell you would like to see some pictures?

CE: Of her?

LM: Yeah.

CE: Sure.

LM: Because I have them. Would you like to see them because I'd be more than happy to show them to you? If you want to see them I'll show them to you. I'll show you what I'm talking about with these injuries.

CE: With her dead?

LM: Yeah. Do you want to see these or no?

CE: I don't know.

LM: I'll show them to you if you want. I'll show you these photos.

CE: I don't want to see a dead kid Jesus. *[Especially one that I loved, and who was alive only 12 hours earlier.]*

LM: Well you're asking me about the injuries and I'm, I'm gonna show them to you. I want you to what I am talking about.

CE: I understand that but. Let me think about that.

LM: CHAD you're asking me, you're asking me what kind of injuries. Well I want to show what kind of injuries I'm talking about.

CE: Okay. Just explain it to me. Do a visual.

LM: Well it's, it's kind of hard to do a visual. You know these pictures speak for themselves and this is why you know I want, I want you to tell me ...

CE: I have been.

LM: Okay. Well like I said you're asking me what kind of injuries. I have them right here. Do you want to take a look at them?

CE: I don't know that I want to see a dead baby.

LM: Huhuh.

CE: I'd be in the medical field ...

LM: Okay.

CE: ... if that's what I wanted to do.

LM: Well, it's not only a dead baby, it's KASSIDY. It's a child that you been ...

CE: Yeah I understand that. *[I didn't need a photograph to prove to me that Cassidy was dead. I believed the police. I didn't think I could handle seeing what the police told me had been done to her.]*

LM: ... living with. Okay. And this is what the point I'm trying to get across to you okay. You know we do this everyday.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay, this is what we do. You know I'm not making stuff up okay. These injuries happened.

CE: Okay.

LM: All right.

CE: Let me ask you a question.

LM: Well - go ahead what do you want?

CE: You say we're a lot alike, could you see yourself doing something like that?

LM: Well your situation is different than mine. Your situation is a little bit different than mine. So I'm not in your shoes. So, so I can't make that decision.

CE: Yeah and, and I'm not in yours.

LM: Okay. Right.

CE: So it would be ...

LM: For me no.

CE: You're assuming that I did this to this girl and I, there's no ...

LM: Yeah.

CE: ... freaken way that I would, oh man. *[I was getting so frustrated. Why couldn't they see that I loved Cassidy. They just didn't want to see anything that conflicted with their theory.]*

LM: No. Oh our situations are different so I, I really can't answer that question. That's like comparing apples to oranges. But what I'm telling you is, is everything that we've done, everybody that we've talked to, our investigation indicates that you are responsible for these injuries:

CE: No way.

LM: Okay.

CE: Absolutely ...

LM: And you're asking me about the injuries and I'm sitting here and I'm saying I'd be more than happy to show them to you.

CE: Yeah, it's not the fear of seeing something that you think that 1...

LM: Huhuh.

CE: ... I did it to the girl or anything like that. It's nothing to do with it. It's the fact that you know last night I'm doing the alphabet with her and now she's in a fucken picture dead.

LM: She is.

CE: That's what the problem is. *[You cannot imagine what it was like to come to the police station and learn of Cassidy's death and then, on top of that, to be accused of her death. Of course, after this interrogation, the nightmare for me and Amanda grew worse, but this was the beginning.]*

LM: She is. And that's, that's, that's what I'm talking about okay.

- RL: CHAD you have hurt her before okay, whether it was intentional or not. She's got bruising, we got mom saying and we got sister and ...
- CE: Oh yeah everybody is saying and they've all seen me do it. There's no freaken ...
- RL: There's a reason you didn't go to to the day care. You told us that yourself that you didn't bring her to the doctor's because you didn't want the doctor to see the the black and blues.
- CE: Yes. *[At the time that I made that comment about not wanting a doctor to assume that I was the source of bruises on Kassidy, I was thinking not only of the faint bruises that I had caused on Kassidy's lower cheeks while seeking eye contact with her, but also of the other bruises which I didn't cause at all. Among them was the black and blue that Jeff caused with the diaper incident at his apartment. I should have asked the police to ask Amanda how many times I told her to take Kassidy to the hospital to have a wart removed from her finger because it obviously bothered Kassidy.]*
- RL: You have, you have a life that there's a lot of stress and you can snap. I'm a father of three and those kids will drive you ape shit. And don't, don't tell me that you know you're Mr., Mr. Good Father because kids will drive you ape shit and you can snap.
- CE: Call my wife right now and ask her if I've ever hit either one of those other two kids. Just do that for me. *[By this point, I was almost over the edge. Referring to Brent and Kyle, whom I love more than life, as "those other two kids" was not my usual manner.]*
- RL: This is not your, this is not your child.
- CE: (Inaudible) *[And neither was Brent my biological child, but I have always loved him and cared for him as my own! Just as I had done with Kassidy.]*
- RL: (Inaudible) KASSIDY, KASSIDY is a jealous, jealous little girl. Every time you'd, you'd show affection towards AMANDA, KASSIDY would get upset.
- CE: BRENT wasn't my child and I didn't beat him. I just raised him as my own.
- RL: Yeah. But KASSIDY was a jealous little girl wasn't she?
- CE: As I was telling, you don't think BRENT was. He was a little momma's boy. *[Brent wasn't a "momma's boy." Brent is a great kid. I was feeling defensive and angry by what Det. LeClair was insinuating. I was making the point that Kassidy and Brent meant the same to me, and I treated them both as if they were my own. It didn't matter that Kassidy was a girl. As with all mixed families, there were adjustments that needed attention at first.]*
- RL: Yeah did did BRENT sit there and cry when you were showing affection to to mom?
- CE: Yeah at first.
- RL: And what did you do? You grabbed him by the throat too and tell him no this is not the way you behave, put him in the corner?
- CE: I didn't say anything about grabbing her throat whatever. I simply the only times that that happened is when she said no to AMANDA. She goes "Oh will you go deal with her." So I was like no you can't say no whatever. *[As happened sometimes, Amanda asked me to discipline Kassidy. I would just look at her in the eyes and tell her that she shouldn't say "No" to her mother. I never grabbed Kassidy by the throat. I never grabbed Brent by the throat either.]*

- RL: And let me you what the hell kind of father would bring a kid up to a sink because he's crying and throw water all over him?
- CE: I - See everything is getting blow up. That's not, you're questioning if I'm a father, a good father. And the only thing I did to her like I said was pull her up there and splash water on her face. She was screaming. *[She seemed to be hyperventilating. I was trying to get her to breathe. I was scared.]*
- RL: Let's stop crying, okay here throw water. Kids at the beach that's what fathers all do. All right the kid is crying okay let's go get a bucket of water woووо.
- CE: Okay so that's not what happened. I'm sorry (inaudible) *[I was sorry that they did not understand and did not seem sympathetic. I was a grieving parent-figure, and not a child abuser and not a child killer. They were getting frustrated that I was not admitting to being responsible for Cassidy's death, which would validate their theory. They were trying to fit the square facts into a round hole, and they didn't fit.]*
- RL: That's why you did it.
- CE: No that was the wrong thing to do. I admit it. *[Still, I was eager to please these officers where I could, so I agreed with them that splashing water on Cassidy was wrong, but at the time it was a reasonable response to the situation, and it worked. I shouldn't have agreed with them. The police never explained to me what they would have done in such a situation, and what they would have done if their efforts failed.]*
- RL: That's correct.
- CE: Okay but you know, just because I did that doesn't me I - Oh God. I can't ever say it. There's just no way.
- RL: You know KASSIDY is dead. She's an innocent 18 month old who's dead, who had nothing to do with her death.
- CE: Yeah.
- RL: Nothing.
- CE: (Inaudible)
- LM: This is a girl that that really couldn't defend herself you know.
- CE: Man, don't you think that I, I mean everything that's exactly what I'm saying. *[I knew this! That's exactly what I was trying to say - I didn't hurt Cassidy. I knew it was my job to protect her, not hurt her.]*
- LM: She's just a little girl man.
- CE: You guys, I went through this shit with my wife when I actually got angry and did that stuff. Never once in those times did I hurt my kids, never. *[And never would I. What happened with Tristan was very wrong. But, going there with my child would have been completely different. Not every father who has an incident of domestic violence with his wife is a child abuser.]*
- LM: (Inaudible)
- CE: No but I understand that.
- LM: No, no ...

CE: Let me explain something to you.

LM: No I don't want you to explain.

CE: So what I'm trying to tell you though is why ...

LM: I don't want you to explain. *[This repeated response from Det. McCleish sums up the police view of my interrogation. They didn't want explanations. They wanted an admission. They wanted anything that would fit their theory.]*

CE: You know I have seen those commercials all that time, you know like you shouldn't hurt any kid. You don't think I believe in that shit.

LM: CHAD I don't doubt that about your kids. We're not talking about your kids okay. We're talking about KASSIDY who's dead okay that's what we're dealing with right now.

CE: Yeah I understand. *[And what they didn't understand was that I loved Kassidy as my own child! I was her father figure and loved her as such. I hadn't married her mom yet, but so what? It wasn't like we hadn't talked about marriage someday. Would that marriage certificate make me care about Kassidy more? Like as much as I care for Brent?]*

LM: Okay. You understand what I'm saying here?

CE: Yeah ...

LM: And I'm telling you that it clearly indicates that you are responsible for these.

CE: Clearly bullshit. I did not do these injuries...

LM: Okay everyone is telling us what they've seen you do to that girl before.

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay. Everyone is telling us that that things have happened. I'm not saying ... *[It seems that the police were telling "everyone" that I was their only suspect, and then "everyone" was telling the police what they wanted to hear. My interview began at 7:15. Prior to that time, these people had been interviewed and had completed their interviews: Jeff Marshall (4:12), Jennifer Bortner Conley (4:15), and Amanda Bortner (4:20). Jeff and Jennifer had never seen me with Kassidy when we were not also with Amanda. Thus, "everyone" seems like a very small number of people, including a teen-aged, grief-stricken mother who was intimidated by the police into saying things which were not true about me.]*

CE: Do you want to hear something that's funny. JEFF and JEN, I don't think I've ever been around them together with the baby. *[Actually, I had been with them together with Kassidy and Amanda a few brief times during the five months that I knew Kassidy. It wasn't "something that's funny" at all. I was really struggling here to find something to persuade the police that their theory was 100% wrong. I felt that various people had to be filling the police with incorrect information, and I was wondering why the police were not questioning the integrity and motives of these sources. As time went on, more and more of these allegations were found to have minimal factual basis.]*

LM: I'm not saying that this (inaudible)

LM: Why don't you tell me - Let me ask you this, here's a question for you. Why, why do I got to bring out this stuff, well what about the faucet thing and and what about and what about the marks on ...

CE: (Inaudible) *[I could have responded, "You don't have to 'bring out this stuff'," indirectly. Just ask me direct questions and I'll give you direct answers. I just cannot think straight right now because a little girl that I was helping raise as if she was my own daughter just died.]*

LM: Why didn't you tell me about that stuff?

CE: You asked me, the mark thing I told you. You didn't ask me that, I told you that.

CE: And the the water thing as I said before if you put yourself in my position I didn't even think of that because to me it wasn't a big deal. *[Not to mention that a significant loss had occurred in my life on that day. I couldn't think straight. I was raised with good values. I wasn't withholding anything that had any relevance to Cassidy's death. I was trying to help Cassidy with the water, and was not trying to hurt her. I wasn't angry. Again, she wasn't hurt, and her breathing returned to normal.]*

LM: Yeah.

CE: All I did - I mean I'm talking like ...

LM: But you know I mean that's not

CE: Here you go.

LM: Yeah okay, that's fine. You know

CE: I feel like I'm the defense here, I'm defending my fucken. I don't even want to talk anymore just, you're gonna think I murdered some baby whatever. Just I'll... *[I was frustrated and frazzled beyond belief. Not only had we lost Cassidy, but I was being forced to defend everything as if everything I said was a lie. To these officers, all of a sudden I have no honor and everything I've done in my life to show the person that I am doesn't matter. That morning of November 9th, I helped Cassidy get ready for the day, and she picked out her cereal for her baggie to take to Jeff's, and I kissed her good-bye; and 12 hours later she is dead? Did the police know how this could feel?]*

LM: Okay.

CE: Whatever I'll just...

LM: Do you want to take a break?

CE: No. Fuck it I just want a lawyer, I don't want to talk anymore because you, you're gonna accuse me. You want to hey look this guy got as record fucken pin on him everybody else is you know.

LM: CHAD sit tight. Be right back.

CE: I need to go to the bathroom now too.

LM: Okay. Just a second.

(DET. MCCLEISH leaves the room)

CE: This is bullshit. Unbelievable. *[I was so frustrated.]*

(DET. MCCLEISH re-enters the room)

LM: Need to go to the bathroom?

CE: Yeah.

LM: Okay, go down this way.

(CHAD EVANS & DET. MCCLEISH leave the room)

(DET MCCLEISH and CHAD EVANS re-enter the room)

LM: All right CHAD why don't you, why don't you just have a seat for a few more minutes here okay. I know you want to get out of here now ...

CE: Yeah - I mean I - You know I guess let me say something else. I think I've been more than decent trying to answer every little question you guys have.

LM: Yeah.

CE: You know you came, you came in and you were decent and talking like you were a friend, I out with everything and then you just throw this on me like accusing me of doing this. That really bothers me. And I know you got a job to do but I'll tell you ... You know the funny thing about that whole, you know as a matter of fact I just thought of something else when I was talking to you. When I was at the house last night TRISTEN called me, my ex-wife and asked me where's JEREMY. And I said I don't know he's whatever because she wanted to go hang out with him. And I said - when TRISTEN and I had been talking I told you that she thought the kid was a little slow or whatever and I, I said TRISTEN you might be right, she might be really slow. And she said "Why? What do you mean?" And I said, and I told her about you know standing outside the car and falling or whatever. And she's like "Yeah" she goes "It's kind of weird" but but I thought maybe because of her foot and whatever. And but I'm almost positive I told her right there, you check with her, I'm almost positive I told her that about her just fucken kind of hanging there in the car seat, like just whatever. Now if you don't think that's weird that the kid's eyes were all classed. over or whatever... *[I explained to Tristan how Kassidy had been acting, glassy eyes, no appetite, etc. Kyle got on the phone and told his mother that he accidentally hit Kassidy with a ball. I was rambling here with the police because I felt desperate and unable to convey the truth to them. I was getting so upset that I wasn't referring to Kassidy as Kassidy, but as "the kid."]*

LM: I do.

CE: ... and she was hanging there whatever. And that was long before I picked her up. And then you know she was in bed sleeping you know. TRAVIS was in the house I mean call him up and ask him. I can't fucken believe this. And I don't mean like, I don't even know how I should be acting. I feel like you know, you know what I mean? You, you just can't say anything right or whatever. And I mean I'm telling you that exactly what happened you know. I babied

LM: CHAD do you want me to get you some water? You asked me for that right?

CE: Right.

LM: Be right back in a few minutes okay.

(DET. MCCLEISH leaves the room)

(DET. MCCLEISH reenters the room)

LM: Listen CHAD I know, I know you want to get out of here okay. But look like we've, like we were talking before you know. You know we came in here we wanting to get some answers.

CE: Yeah.

LM: And you know I think I treated you pretty good. And you know I'm kind of getting the, you know a little bit of a conflicting feeling from you here. You're telling me that you want a lawyer. But then you're also talking to me here. So ...

CE: The thing is, this is how, you want to know how I actually feel?

LM: Well just - Okay.

CE: Go ahead.

LM: I need to this okay so. I would like to keep talking with you okay but you've asked for this attorney and/or you know you're talking about wanting to speak to one at first. If, if you want to still talk to me you know I got to read you that Miranda again okay. It's the rights that we read before okay.

CE: Yeah, I understand.

LM: You know and like I said I just want to get to the bottom of this you know.

CE: Okay.

LM: Is that okay with you?

CE: Okay. That what, that you want to get to the bottom of this?

LM: Well yeah that if if...

CE: (Inaudible)

LM: Is it okay with you if I read you the the Miranda again and you want to continue talking with me or what do you want to do? I need to clarify that.

CE: All right let me, let me clarify how I feel.

LM: Okay.

CE: All right?

LM: Yeah.

CE: This is how I feel. I feel like I've come in here and tried to help and and explain anything I can. And you know in the back of my mind I'm thinking the whole time about you know, picking that kid up like that last night, not really paying attention to it. Yeah I royally screwed up. I probably should of, whatever but any ways. What I'm thinking is I've been right up front with everything and ...

LM: Uh, huh.

CE: And told you exactly how I feel and what and what I've done and everything and that and I don't, and then it's like you, you're twisting things and I understand why you're doing that whatever. But like saying that well I had to drag this out. And like no you didn't, I told you that. I'd come right out and told you a lot of shit. .

LM: I want to continue talking ...

CE: Right ...

LM: (Inaudible)

CE: Yeah but what I'm trying to be clear about here is, you know I feel like I'm just talking in circles. You guys are just gonna try to pin this thing on me any ways, so no I'm done talking.

LM: Really? Okay.

CE: You know, whatever. Arrest me.

LM: Okay. No, no. Okay CHAD. Let me find out what's gonna happen okay. I'm gonna leave you here, just sit tight.

(DET.;MCCLEISH leaves the room)

CE: Hey actually hey ...

(DET. MCCLEISH reenters the room)

LM: Did you call me CHAD?

CE: Yeah. I just - I just was gonna tell you that you know, I mean I want to make it clear that not for reason that I don't want to talk just because I don't want to help. It's because I don't, I can't have something like this pinned on me because I had nothing to do with it. That's what the problem is.

LM: Okay. So you don't want to talk to me anymore or you do?

CE: My heart does. My head is telling me CHAD you just whatever, I mean you're talking which is, is fine but you guys just have this in your head that I did this any ways so what the hell is the point.

LM: Well the point is is ...

CE: I'm telling you right now you will never get this out of me that I did something to that kid last night because I never - I didn't. No ifs, ands or buts about it. I had my kid and her kid there. You know even if I was and then I think about it more, like even if I was (inaudible) do you think I'd do something in front in my kid. What, what would that show him? *[You can tell how agitated I was. I kept referring to Kyle and Cassidy as "kid," rather than by their name. I'm distancing myself here.]*

LM: All right.

CE: But no - I'll answer any questions if somebody tells me this probably the right one to answer but I don't. I'm not protected in here. I don't know what...

LM: Well...

CE: You know.

LM: That's what I'm saying you are protected. That's that's why I read you, if you want you can stop like I said.

CE: I don't want to stop but I think I have to stop because it's just you know.

LM: Okay.

CE: You've come out and said that you think I did did this to this kid. And you're gonna try all night here to get me to say that and there's no way I'm gonna say that because I . didn't do a damn thing to her. I picked her up ... No way.

(DET. MCCLEISH leaves the room)

(Sgt. MATTHEW STEWART enters the room)

MS: Hey CHAD, how you doing?

CE: All right.

MS: Hanging in there?

CE: Yeah.

MS: Okay. Remember me?

CE: Yeah.

MS: Okay. I'm MATT STEWART, I'm a Sergeant with the State Police here okay. I just talked to LANCE here about your conversation. He explains to me that you feel you want to consult with an attorney?

CE: How do you answer that question, you know what I mean. Like it's not like a direct, I don't know. The way I feel is I've come here and I wanted to do everything I can to help ...

MS: Huhuh.

CE: But now I'm like being accused of doing it and - of killing that baby and there's no way. I mean now, you know I'm like just things that were said I just feel like you know they were twisted or whatever, I'm not gonna ... *[I don't understand why I increasingly referred to Cassidy as "kid" or "baby." Perhaps it was a way of protecting myself from the pain of her death. If I distanced myself from her with a non-personal name, she wouldn't be as close?]*

MS: Sure.

CE: I mean I. you know. I'll just continue to do anything I can help but I need somebody to tell me what you should answer and what you shouldn't answer ...

MS: Right.

CE: ... I guess.

MS: Well we appreciate your, your willingness to to help and your interest in that we really do. Because obviously you know we thought that was very important, that's why we wanted to talk to you. And again we appreciate your, your cooperation of sticking around and your patience about that. But I guess once again your just, you are saying that you want to talk to an attorney is that right?

CE: I'm saying I'd be more than happy to answer questions ...

MS: Humm.

CE: But I you know, I don't know maybe my mind is going away because I watch too much T.V. or ...

MS: Humm.

CE: ... something but you know what I mean.

MS: Huhuh.

CE: Like I know exactly what happened last night and it has nothing to do with hurting that baby. *[And for some reason, maybe I was too frazzled... Maybe the loss of Cassidy was affecting my ability to communicate effectively, but I didn't kill Cassidy. I did not beat Cassidy the previous night or that morning she died. Yet, I was not able to convince the police to believe me. I wanted to stay and somehow convince them of the truth, but they were going to "yup" me to death and bring the accusations right back to me. I didn't have anything to do with Cassidy's death, except in hindsight, I should have insisted on medical care for her during the previous days. I had shown my concern about Jeff Marshall's care for Cassidy by picking her up the previous afternoon, but it wasn't enough. Along with everyone else, I had not understood the true extent of her injuries.]*

MS: Huhuh.

CE: And you know, but it's gonna keep going in that circle all night.

MS: Okay.

CE: You know and that's why 1...

MS: Right.

CE: ... just think I'm better off with fine.

MS: Okay. That's all right I guess I just wanted to you know understand what you were saying that's all because I know what LANCE had told me and I just wanted, you know make sure that's what you were saying. And that's fine. You know we obviously want to honor that request of yours and that interest of yours so we're not gonna do anything to to go against that, okay? And once again we appreciate you coming in. Ah what's gonna happen from this point on okay is that we are securing a search warrant, New Hampshire State Police is securing a search warrant for your residence in Rochester.

CE: Okay. *[They never needed to get a search warrant as I would have GLADLY LET THEM search anything they wanted, and would have encouraged that search. Perhaps through such searches, they would see that I was telling the truth, assuming that it was the truth they were seeking. Later, I learned that the police didn't obtain search warrants for Jeff Marshall's apartment as his consent was sufficient. The extensive search of my house, vehicles and property turned up ZERO physical evidence. Unfortunately, even this huge fact wasn't enough to prove to them that I had nothing to do with Cassidy's death and they should have rechecked statements, facts, and resumed their search for real evidence.]*

MS: Okay, and that's being secured by the New Hampshire State Police right now. So you won't be able to go back to your house tonight. Okay? Or TRAVIS. All right.

CE: Does TRAVIS know this?

MS: I'm not sure if he's actually aware of it at this point but...

CE: Well someone got to let my dog out, it will shit all over the ... *[Kato was my first-born "child." You can tell I'm wiped and defeated as I am referring to him as "it."]*

MS: Oh I'm sure that something can be arranged.

CE: And the other problem is it's gonna definitely bite somebody so ...

MS: Huhuh. Okay. Well we'll, we'll take care of that situation ..

CE: I wanted - I mean I had that dog for six years I don't want to hurt her or anything like that. *[Kato was a male. I don't know why I said "her." It was just another perfect example of the emotional wreck I was that evening. I could not think straight, everything was a jumble. I was worried that something might happen to Kato. If I wasn't there Kato was going to be extra protective. He had already tried to bite my probation officer. I had Kato forever and didn't want him hurt. I might have said "girl" the same way someone would refer to their pick up truck. "She's got a lot of miles on her but she is still going strong. You can't beat those old Chevy's."*

J

MS: Okay. What kind of dog is it?

CE: White German Shepherd.

MS: Okay. Aggressive?

CE: Oh yeah.

MS: Kind of dog?

CE: Kind of protective, home dog.

MS: All right. The other thing is as far as your vehicle is concerned because it appears to us that you know your vehicle may be part of this whole scenario to some degree at least as far as you described it. We're going to be needing to take a look at your vehicle as well, and we'll be securing a search warrant for that. So we'll be taking custody of your vehicle here tonight and we'll acquire a search warrant to examine it tomorrow and we'll let you know when we're done with that okay.

CE: All right well, all my work stuff like what am I suppose to do?

MS: Well I guess we'll have to get it back to you as soon as we can. Okay? I hope you understand you know this is a real serious ...

CE: I, I do believe me. *[I could have continued, "Search whatever you want, but please be equally thorough everywhere. Search everyone's car, home, etc. You should be checking to verify what everyone is saying."]*

MS: ... situation okay. And we've, we've got to do you know a thorough job and I'm sure you appreciate that and I'm sure you agree with that. And then we just need to to do it up right and that, those are some of the things we need to do. Okay? And the other thing I just want to let you know is you know, this is a serious situation and we're investigating it thoroughly along with the New Hampshire State Police and Kittery Police Department.

CE: Yeah.

MS: That if if you decide at a later time you can, you know an hour from now, a day time, tomorrow sometime whatever, if you want to talk to us again ...

CE: I'm, I'm willing to talk to you anytime but I just...

MS: Yeah.

CE: Do you understand where where I'm coming from though? I just don't, see like, this is what I'm afraid of.

MS: Huhuh.

CE: Just not, like I'm not cooperating now or something you know what I mean.

MS: No. We, we believe me we fully respect what you've said and we fully respect what you just indicated as far as your desire and wanting to talk to an attorney and we're not trying to stand in the way of that at all. We just wanted to make sure that... *[I had answered their questions and heard their accusations for over three hours. I didn't want an attorney because I was guilty, but because I was innocent; and it didn't seem that they were interested in the truth. Instead, it seemed that they were interested in assigning blame as soon as possible.]*

CE: I know but you know I've always watched the stuff and you think like oh so much is I want to talk to an attorney that they're guilty. And I know beyond a shadow of a doubt

MS: Huhuh.

CE: ... I did nothing ...

MS: Okay.

CE: ... to that baby.

MS: Well you know we have a legal system that's constructed of various checks and balances and that's why we have attorneys to consult with, so that you can be fully aware of your rights and responsibilities and if that's what you'd like to do then that's absolutely fine with us. And obviously we want to honor that. So we just wanted to let you know the door is open if you want to come back and talk to us, if there's things that you think of an hour from now or two hours or six hours from now that you want to let us know.

Call us okay and we'll be right there to talk with you. All right? Because you know you're you're important in this whole thing and we want to be able to to figure things out.

CE: I understand what you're saying. I mean I certainly, I certainly see where you're coming from. (Inaudible)

MS: Okay.

CE: I hope you guys investigate and talk to everybody that I know about what kind of a person I am. *[And look into the relationship I had with Cassidy and all children.]*

MS: Huhuh. (Inaudible) Thanks very much.

CE: Yeah.

(Sgt. STEWART-leaves the room)

LM: Concludes at 1043 hours/PM.