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## Unknown person posted Evans' bail

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KITTERY, Maine — Although no one will say who posted bail for a Rochester, N.H., man accused in the beating death of a 21-month-old girl, a man familiar with the bond field said anonymity is not unusual in a case like this.

"We are bound by contract confidentiality with the persons who put up bail," said Brian Denis, president and general agent of Denis Bail Bonds of Raymond, N.H.

Denis' company is the bond agent that posted bail for Chad E. Evans in Rochester District Court one week ago. Denis said his company is not at liberty to disclose the identity of an individual or group that posts bail unless required to do so by a court as part of an investigation.

Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road in Rochester is charged with manslaughter in connection with what officials have called the senseless beating death of his girlfriend's daughter. Cassidy Bortner was pronounced dead at York Hospital on the afternoon of Nov. 9.

Denis explained that Evans' bail, which was set at \$100,000 cash or surety, is substantial compared to what he has generally seen in his 19 years working as a bail bond agent in New Hampshire.

As for wishing to remain anonymous, Denis said that is often the request of people who put up bail money and collateral.

"It is a very common thing," Denis said. "Realistically, you don't have a lot of people who want to do this."

Evans' attorney, Alan Cronheim, said on Monday he does not know who posted the bond.

The bail process itself is more complicated than many people realize, Denis said, explaining that an individual or entity seeking to post bail through a bond company must come up with 10 percent of the entire bail amount and then put up collateral equivalent to the remainder of the sum.

In Evans' case, that means \$10,000 in cash and \$90,000 in collateral. Denis said it is similar in principle to the process involving the mortgage of a house in which a premium rate is charged on the sum borrowed and the property is used as security in case the bond is not repaid.

Evans was charged in New Hampshire on Nov. 16 with manslaughter for allegedly inflicting a "blunt force injury" to Cassidy's head — an

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injury officials say resulted in the girl's death Nov. 9.

The charge against Evans was based in part on the preliminary autopsy report by the Maine Chief Medical Examiner's Office. An official cause of death and full results of the autopsy are still pending.

The bail conditions include no contact with Evans' girlfriend, Amanda Bortner — Cassidy's mother. Foster's has learned that Bortner left New England last week for Texas, but officials will neither confirm nor deny that information. Bortner has not been charged in connection with her daughter's death.

Evans is also required to stay away from other state witnesses in the case, including Bortner's sister, Jennifer Conley, and Conley's boyfriend, F. Jeffrey Marshall. The pair live in Kittery, and were looking after Cassidy the day she died.

Marshall placed a call to Kittery police requesting emergency medical attention for Cassidy at 12:41 p.m. on Nov. 9 after what officials describe as "a dramatic decline" in her health.

Evans has had to surrender his passport, Carter said, but is not required to remain in New Hampshire. He does need to check in with police because he is on probation after pleading guilty to simple assault charges against his ex-wife in March.

Although no specific restrictions prohibiting contact with children are included as part of Evans' bail conditions, his contact with his own 3-year-old son is limited because of separate legal action.

On Nov. 8, a Rochester District Court judge awarded Evans' former wife full custody of their child, permitting Evans to only have visitation with the mother's supervision. Evans faces a Dec. 4 probable cause hearing in Rochester District Court on the manslaughter charge. In addition, he faces trial in Rochester District Court in January on charges he violated his probation by possessing boxes of live ammunition and being charged with a felony.

Officials will not comment on whether additional charges are expected to be brought against Evans or if anyone else is a suspect in the toddler's death.

The investigation includes state and local police in both Maine and New Hampshire.

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