

Accused baby killer pleads innocent to latest charges

Chad Evans still free on bail after arraignment

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ROCHESTER — A local man pleaded innocent this morning to numerous charges in connection with the death of his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter.

Chad E. Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road, Rochester, was arraigned on one count of second-degree murder, two counts of first-degree assault and six counts of second-degree assault for allegedly killing Kassidy Bortner.

The arraignment, originally scheduled for 3 p.m. today in Strafford County Superior Court, was moved up to 9 a.m. A court clerk said Evans' \$100,000 corporate surety bail, paid to the court last month, was continued and that he remains free.

Evans was arrested in November for allegedly killing the Rochester girl, who died of a blunt force injury to her head.

Evans was indicted on the nine charges last

☆ **Evans**

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month. He has also been charged with one count of endangering the welfare of a child and one count of simple assault involving Kassidy's mother, Amanda Bortner. Evans lived with Bortner and her daughter at the time of the girl's death.

The indictments allege that Evans assaulted Kassidy several times over a three-month period — beating the child and throwing her into walls — before she died Nov. 9.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt; rather it means a grand jury found there was sufficient evidence to warrant a trial.

The indictments state that Evans allegedly grabbed and squeezed Kassidy's face numerous times, and fractured her leg and arm during separate incidents this fall and summer.

But it was multiple blows to the girls' head and abdomen that resulted in her death, according to the indictments.

Evans is also accused of prevent-

ing Kassidy from seeking proper medical treatment for the injuries he allegedly inflicted, said the indictments, which were handed up Dec. 14 by a Strafford County grand jury.

During today's arraignment, Evans signed a waiver of extradition that would require him to return to New Hampshire for trial if he decided to leave the state.

Evans was also ordered to have no contact with the victim's mother, the girl's family or Jeffrey Marshall — Kassidy's baby-sitter. The case is being handled by Judge Tina Nadeau.

Kassidy died at York Hospital after Marshall called Kittery police requesting emergency services for the young girl. Kassidy was dropped off at Marshall's residence that morning by her mother and pronounced dead at the hospital several hours later.

The trial has not been scheduled, according to a court clerk.