

**NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
CONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**1022**

<b>1. CASE NO.</b> MCI00-0216	<b>2. INVESTIGATING TROOPER</b> J. C. Rockey	<b>3. I.D. NO.</b> 696	<b>4. TOWN OF CRIME</b> Rochester	<b>5. TN. CD.</b>	<b>6. DATE OF REPORT</b> 02/05/2001
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On February 5, 2001 at approximately 2023 hours I received a page from Troop A dispatch. It requested me to call:

Merrill, Cory  
[REDACTED]

at the Strafford County Jail as soon as possible. I called the jail and spoke with Merrill.

Merrill asked me if someone was following Chad Evans or Amanda Bortner. I asked him why he wanted to know. He said he was concerned for Bortner's safety. He had been thinking about Bortner since Sergeant White and I had interviewed him. He said Evans had made some comments to him while they were cell mates that made him think Evans may try to harm Bortner. I advised Merrill, Bortner was safe. I asked him what comments Evans had made. Merrill said he wasn't alone where he was calling from and couldn't really talk.

Merrill said he had spoken to Evans a few times since Sergeant White and I interviewed him. Evans told Merrill he was staying at his parents in Keene and wasn't able to get a job. Merrill didn't want to say anymore because there were others in the room with him. I advised him I would come to the jail the following day and speak with him.

On February 6, 2001 at approximately 1300 hours I spoke with Merrill in an interview room at the Strafford County Jail. I asked Merrill why he wanted to talk now and not the first time Sergeant White and I had interviewed him. Merrill said during our first visit he had a lot going on in his own life and with his own case. He didn't feel comfortable talking with the police at that point. Merrill said he had time to think since the first time he had been interviewed. He felt there were things Evans had discussed with him that he had to tell us (the police).

Merrill said the first time Evans really confided in him was approximately a week before Thanksgiving, because he remembered Evans was released on bail the day before Thanksgiving. Merrill remembered Evans talking about how the baby wouldn't stop crying. Merrill couldn't remember Evans' girlfriend's name. But Merrill said Evans told him when the baby wouldn't stop crying they (Evans and his girlfriend) would spank her. After Evans talked to Merrill about how he disciplined Cassidy, Merrill told me Evans beat Cassidy, he didn't spank her.

At some point during the first few days Evans was in jail he told Merrill that he walked in on Amanda throwing a baseball at Cassidy. He also told Merrill, he and Amanda were coming back from the babysitters and they dropped the baby on the ground. Merrill said Evans didn't state whether that was on purpose or by accident.

I asked Merrill who was in the cell during these conversations. He said himself, Evans,

Gautreau, Craig E.  
[REDACTED]

and maybe,

Tuttle, Adam  
[REDACTED]

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Merrill said Evans talked about suicide a few times while in the cell with him. Merrill and Gautreau both said to Evans, if he didn't do it, why would he kill himself. Evans stated, "Maybe I should just hang it up now." Merrill explained this was jail slang for suicide. Evans told Merrill that he didn't think the police or the prosecutor or whatever have enough evidence on him, but Amanda might try to blame him. This upset Evans and Merrill feared for Amanda's safety.

Merrill said when Evans first came in, the first night, he told Merrill he had picked up the baby in York and said the baby was not responsive when he called her name. It was either the night before she died or that day, Merrill wasn't sure. Evans told Merrill he picked up the baby himself at the babysitters. Evans said he looked over at the baby and she was nodding off. Evans said if he was guilty of anything, it was negligence. Merrill couldn't remember the babysitters name, only that it was a guy. Merrill thought he owned his own company, maybe landscaping.

When Evans got moved into the same cell as Merrill he starting talking about spanking the baby. He also talked about McDonalds. Merrill told Evans he might need a job when he got out. Evans said he'd get Merrill a job and a place to stay if he worked hard.

Merrill asked Evans if he and Amanda would get married. Evans said he was in love with Amanda and really loved Kassidy. That he and Amanda were planning on getting married. Evans said he had a few conversations with Amanda while he was here (in jail). A couple of times he came back to the cell bummed out. One time he told Merrill it was because he couldn't have contact with Amanda anymore.

Merrill stated he use to help his cousin take care of her son so he and Evans kind of got to connecting, talking about true feelings. Evans told Merrill he hated to change diapers. Merrill said changing diapers, feeding, whatever, you do it when you care about the kid. The way Evans was talking, he was like, he don't change diapers, feed, that's the mother's duty. He (Evans) was old-fashioned. Merrill told Evans a baby is not put on this earth, a baby is brought into the world by two people, a mutual thing, the baby should see love between two people and be loved. Merrill said he was starting to get angry with Evans. He said Evans could tell because he was raising his voice. He said Evans got nervous and tried to change the subject, tried to talk about Adam Tuttle.

At some point during this conversation Merrill said Evans brought up a baseball or a softball. Evans said he was walking into the house and saw a baseball go flying across the living room and hit the child (Kassidy). Evans didn't tell Merrill where it hit the child. Merrill assumed Amanda threw it, but Evans didn't say she did. This was the incident Merrill had referred to earlier. Evans had told Merrill that Amanda and Kassiday were home so Merrill assumed Amanda must have been the one to throw the ball.

Merrill said Evans talked about spanking several different times. Evans told Merrill he spanked Kassidy with not only his hand but with his belt as well. Evans told Merrill the baby would wake up crying in the middle of the night. Evans said he'd be totally pissed because he worked seventy to eighty hours and needed the extra sleep, so he'd go in and spank the child.

The last time Evans talked to Amanda on the phone was when he talked about the belt. Merrill said he and Evans got to talking about bringing kids up. Merrill told Evans he didn't believe in spanking, a tap on the butt or hand, or putting them in the corner for a half an hour for a time out, that was it. Evans asked Merrill, you never got to the point where the screaming got so bad and you

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wanted to shut that kid up? Merrill told Evans, he got to that point but you don't take it out on a twenty month old baby. Spanking a child or beating it with a belt won't shut the child up. Merrill told Evans, you need to take them in your arms, rock them, try to calm them down.

Where he works so many hours, Evans told Merrill, he said he came home from work, Merrill thought he said the Rochester store, but he walked in one day and the baby was already crying and Evans said he spanked her.

I asked Merrill what happened when Evans spanked her. Evans told Merrill, he'd continue to spank Cassidy while she screamed and cried. After a while she'd eventually stop crying and would just shake. Evans would only stop spanking Cassidy, when she stopped crying. This would occur at night when Cassidy would wake up crying, or during the day when Cassidy would cry.

I asked Merrill if Evans told him if Cassidy ever lost consciousness after he spanked her. Merrill said no, but he thought Evans said she lost consciousness on the ride home from York that time after he picked her up from the babysitters.

Merrill also said when Evans came back from a call once he told Merrill his parents put up their house and he was putting up \$10,000 cash to get out. If it wasn't his parents money, he would run.

Merrill said he had told me everything he could remember. I cleared the jail a short time later.

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