

**In Dover**

# Trial for Evans delayed

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — Due to a scheduling conflict, the Nov. 5 trial of a Rochester man accused of killing 21-month-old Kassidy Bortner is being postponed.

A conference was held this morning in Strafford County Superior Court.

Chad E. Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road in Rochester will be tried on one count of second-degree murder and several assault charges in connection with Kassidy's death.

Evans and his attorney, Alan Cronheim, were in court this morning along with Assistant Attorney General Christopher Carter. Prosecution and defense counsel approached the bench to discuss scheduling issues with Judge Tina L. Nadeau.

Following the 15-minute proceeding, Carter explained the judge in another murder case being handled by the attorney general's office had requested the week of Nov. 5 for that trial. Carter said the Evans trial will be postponed a matter of weeks, to the end of November.

Kassidy was the daughter of Evans' girlfriend, 19-year-old Amanda Bortner.

The girl was pronounced dead at York Hospital in York, Maine, on the afternoon of Nov. 9 after her mother brought her from the residence she shared with Evans to the home of a relative in Kittery, Maine.

Bortner would later tell police that Evans repeatedly beat her daughter for about six weeks prior to her death. Affidavits filed at Rochester District Court in the first days after Kassidy's death cited examples of abuse.

Bortner told police that Evans threw Kassidy head first into the walls of the Rochester residence, gagged her to stop her from crying, and grabbed her face in a "palming" fashion.

Bortner also told police she and Evans "both routinely told people who inquired that Kassidy's bruises and injuries were the result of her falling down stairs or off the trampoline" and agreed not to seek medical attention for the girl's injuries, according to the affidavits.

Evans was arraigned in Rochester District Court on a charge of manslaughter one week after Cassidy's death following an investigation involving Maine and New Hampshire state police, Kittery and Rochester police and the New Hampshire attorney general's office.

A little less than one month later, a Strafford County grand jury indicted Evans on the murder and assault charges. An indictment is not an indication of guilt; rather, it means a grand jury believes there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial.

Evans, who has spent the last several years working as a district manager

☆ *Postponed*

Please turn to Page 8B

# Postponed

Continued from Page 1B

---

for several area McDonald's restaurants, has been free on \$100,000 corporate surety bail since Nov. 22.

Evans is forbidden from having contact with Bortner, members of her family and other state witnesses in the case. His bail conditions, however, do not restrict his contact with children.

Bortner has not been charged with any crimes in connection with her daughter's death. She is spending

her time alternately between the Seacoast and Texas, according to family and friends.

In addition to this morning's preliminary pretrial and status conference, a final pretrial conference is scheduled for Oct. 25.

When asked for comment, Cronheim said he is continuing to review the more than 1,400 pages of discovery material in preparation for the November trial.