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Evans' attorney looks forward to trial

No motion filed by defense for change of venue for second-degree murder case

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS

Democrat Staff Writer

OSSIPEE — The attorney for a former Rochester man charged with beating his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter to death says he is looking forward to the November trial.

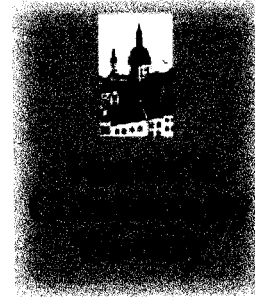
"We want this resolved as quickly as possible. We cannot wait to get a fair and impartial jury to try this case before," Mark Sisti said Thursday morning, standing outside Carroll County Superior Court.

Sisti and Alan Cronheim are defense counsel for Chad E. Evans, 29, formerly of Milton Road in Rochester and Sullivan Street in Keene. Evans was charged last winter with second-degree murder and multiple counts of assault following the death of Cassidy Caitlyn Bortner.

Kassidy's mother, 19-year-old Amanda Bortner, lived with Evans at his Rochester home prior to the toddler's death.

Friday morning, Sisti and Special Senior Assistant Attorney General Christopher H. M. Carter traveled to Ossipee for a status conference on the case. The conference was held in Carroll County Superior Court instead of Strafford County Superior Court because Judge Tina Nadeau, who will hear the Evans' trial, was assigned to Carroll County on Thursday.

During the status conference, Carter and Sisti approached the bench. Both spoke softly with Nadeau and their discussion could not be heard in the gallery. Following the conference, Carter said there were no major changes proposed, although there could be a slight change in the trial schedule. The defense had



Submit Forms	Not filed any motion to change the location of the trial, Carter said.
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Lotteries	"We intend on trying this case in Strafford County. We're intent on getting a jury, and we're intent on getting the facts out in front of the jury," Sisti said.
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Bortner told police Evans repeatedly abused Cassidy and threw the child against the walls and floor of the Milton Road home, according to affidavits filed at Rochester District Court. Bortner also told police she and Evans agreed to lie about Cassidy's injuries and to deny the child medical attention, the affidavits state.

Bortner drove Cassidy from Evans' Rochester residence to the Kittery, Maine, home of her sister, Jennifer Conley and Conley's boyfriend, F. Jefferey Marshall, on the morning of Nov. 9. Bortner pointed out the bruising on Cassidy's face and then went to work, according to the affidavits.

Marshall called Kittery police about four hours later, and the call is listed in the department's log as an "unattended death." The child did not regain consciousness despite attempts at cardiopulmonary resuscitation, according to police. She was pronounced dead about 40 minutes later at nearby York Hospital in York, Maine.

If convicted of the second-degree murder charge, Evans could face life in prison.