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## **Eight jurors selected in Chad Evans murder trial**

DOVER, N.H. (AP) — Eight jurors have been selected this week in the trial of a Keene man accused of beating his girlfriend's baby daughter to death.

Jury selection will continue Monday in the case of Chad Evans, 30, accused in the death of 21-month-old Cassidy Bortner.

The mother, Amanda Bortner, 20, has been charged with two counts of child endangerment.

A Strafford County grand jury indictment said the child had been beaten regularly for at least three months before her death.

Fifteen jurors, including three alternates, are to be selected from a pool of 200 people.

The trial, expected to last two weeks, is set to begin Wednesday.

Evans, who had lived with Bortner in Rochester, could face life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder. Evans also is charged with two counts of first-degree assault and six counts of second-degree assault. He has pleaded innocent to all charges.

Kassidy Bortner was taken by ambulance on Nov. 9, 2000, from her aunt's Kittery, Maine, home to York Hospital, where she was pronounced dead from multiple blows to her head and abdomen.

Evans was charged in New Hampshire because police said they determined the abuse occurred in their Rochester home.

According to court documents, Evans grabbed Cassidy's throat, face and limbs repeatedly, threw the child against walls and prevented her from receiving treatment for her injuries.

Evans originally was released on \$100,000 bail, but has been held at the Strafford County jail since August when his bail was revoked for contacting Bortner.

Prosecutors claim Bortner and Evans lived together for several months after Cassidy's death.

Bortner was charged on the anniversary of the toddler's death. The Laconia woman, who has pleaded innocent, is accused of

knowing Evans was beating the girl, but doing nothing to stop abuse.