

# Evans trial continues

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By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

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BORTNER**

Chad E. Evans, 30, faces charges of second-degree murder and assault in connection with Kassidy's death on Nov. 9, 2000.

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is being defended by attorneys Mark Sisti and Alan Cronheim.

Evans and Kassidy's mother, 19-year-old Amanda Bortner, lived together at his residence at 191 Milton Road in Rochester for about three months prior to the toddler's death.

The state alleges Evans caused Kassidy's death by inflicting blunt-force trauma to her head after weeks of abuse. The defense maintains it was not Evans but Kassidy's babysitter, F. Jefferey Marshall, who inflicted the abuse.

During the first four days of testimony last week, witnesses for the state included Marshall and Kassidy's grandmother Jacqueline Conley, aunt Jennifer Bortner Conley and uncle Joshua Bortner Conley. Several law enforcement officials also testified as well as a York Hospital physician who attended to Kassidy when she was brought to the emergency department on the day she died.

Bortner, too, was called to the witness stand by the state — but not before Delker warned the jury, "Amanda did not side with Kassidy in life and she may not side with her after death."

Cronheim and Sisti, while cross-examining each of the state's witnesses, have continued to maintain that Marshall — Jennifer Bortner Conley's boyfriend — had ample time alone with Kassidy to inflict the injuries that caused her death.

Over two days on the witness stand, Bortner testified that Evans did grab and squeeze her daughter's face hard enough to cause bruises, but contradicted many statements she made to police in the weeks after Kassidy's death. However, Bortner repeatedly alleged that Marshall was to blame for

more serious injuries suffered by Kassidy.

Bortner also testified about one instance where Evans "roughly placed" Kassidy in the corner hard enough for the toddler to hit her head against a closet door, but said the door was not very hard and did not hurt her daughter's head.

Bortner, who is facing two misdemeanor charges of endangering the welfare of a child, is to stand trial in March. Any statements she makes during her testimony in Evans' trial cannot be used against her, unless it is proven she perjured herself.

The trial was scheduled to resume at 9 a.m. and the state is expected to call additional forensic experts, including Maine State Medical Examiner Margaret Greenwald, during the proceedings this week.

The state is also expected to

show a videotape of Evans' interview at the Kittery Police Department after Kassidy's death.

Evans' family and friends have been in court each day, watching the proceedings on one side of the room while Kassidy's grandmother, great-aunt and members of Marshall's family sat on the opposite side of the room.

The trial is expected to last two weeks — until approximately Dec. 18.

If Evans is convicted on the second-degree murder charge, he could face up to life in prison.

*Democrat Staff Writer  
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God looked around His garden

And found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon the earth

And saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you

And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful,

He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering

He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never

Get well on earth again  
He saw the road was getting rough,

And the hills were hard to climb  
So He closed your weary eyelids,

And whispered "Peace be thine."  
It broke our hearts to lose you,

But you didn't go alone.  
For part of us went with you

The day God called you home.  
Loved and Sadly Missed by his

Wife Dee and Children and Granddaughters



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