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## Bortner pleads innocent to alcohol violation

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**DOVER** — The mother of a 21-month-old girl beaten to death in 2000 pleaded innocent to an alcohol violation this morning in Exeter District Court.

Amanda Bortner, 20, of 191 Milton Road in Rochester was charged with the violation following a traffic stop in Epping in August. At that time, police found alcohol in her car.

A trial will be scheduled at a later date and counsel will be appointed to represent Bortner, according to a court clerk.

Bortner's boyfriend, 30-year-old Chad E. Evans, was convicted in December of second-degree murder and multiple counts of assault in connection with the death of Cassidy Bortner. He is serving a sentence of 28 years to life in prison.

Bortner, whose last-known address is the Rochester residence where she lived with Evans and Cassidy prior to the toddler's death, is currently free on bail pending her trial in November on two charges of endangering the welfare of a child.

Her bail conditions have since been upgraded to include no possession of alcohol and no contact with convicted criminals. Two of the men in Bortner's car at the time of the Epping incident were convicted felons, according to authorities.

The endangering the welfare of a child charges allege that Bortner violated her duty of care to Cassidy by failing to protect the child from Evans' abuse and to seek medical attention for her injuries.

Cassidy died Nov. 9, 2000, from blunt-force trauma to the head and abdomen. During Evans' trial, the state maintained he beat the child repeatedly and caused multiple injuries in the weeks before her death.

Bortner, whose testimony in the case was compelled by the state, was charged with the two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child just prior to Evans' trial.

The transporting alcohol by a minor violation is punishable by a fine and temporary loss of license.

Each charge of endangering the welfare of a child carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail.

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