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Bortner pointed toward Evans as Cassidy's killer, tapes show

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DOVER - Chad Evans was responsible for Cassidy Bortner's death, Amanda Bortner told a Maine State Police detective in taped interviews shortly after the child's death.

This afternoon's segment of the Amanda Bortner child endangerment trial in Strafford County Court consisted of testimony by Maine State Police Det. Angela Blodgett, who interviewed Amanda Bortner twice on the day of Cassidy Bortner's death and two times in the following weeks.

Referring to a transcript of those interviews, Blodgett testified about Bortner's descriptions of Evans' treatment of Cassidy. According to the transcript of Bortner's taped interview, Bortner told police that if Cassidy died from head trauma, Chad Evans was responsible for her death.

In testimony this morning, Tristan Evans, Chad Evans' ex wife, accused other unnamed witnesses of breaking a court order not to discuss the case with each other

Tristan Evans supported supported her ex-husband throughout his murder trial in December. She and others who testified this morning reported seeing bruises on the infant Cassidy Bortner on multiple occasions. Tristin testified that she called the Division of Children Youth and Families to report the bruises about a week before Cassidy died.

Before court recessed for lunch today, defense council Patricia Wiberg was cross-examining Melissa Chick of Sanford, Maine. Ms. Chick had testified for the state that she saw bruises on Cassidy may times after Amanda Bortner started living with Evans.

"She'd always had bruises on her face . . . she seemed drawn back, very quiet . . . she seemed scared," Ms. Chick said. She also said that before Bortner and Evans began living together, Cassidy had been a spunky and energetic toddler.