

# Checkmate

## Forensic Handwriting Examiners

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COURT QUALIFIED / APPOINTED FORENSIC HANDWRITING AND PROFILING EXPERTS

February 13, 2008

Chet Evans  
71 Sullivan Street  
Keene, N.H. 03431

Dear Chet:

On Tuesday evening, February 12, 2008, I spoke with Shannon Gagne. Our conversation encompassed the Maine State Police report submitted by Detective Jeffrey A Lindscott and her testimony at Chad's trial.

A summation of the police report, her testimony at trial and our conversation is presented for your comparison:

1. **Police Report (Detective Lindscott) containing alleged statements by Shannon - dated 11/12/00 - by telephone - PAGE 1263**

..."Gagne stated she last saw AMANDA BORTNER and KASSIDY BORTNER about three weeks ago when she went to Rochester, NH to see them and meet CHAD EVANS. GAGNE stated she saw a bruise on KASSIDY BORTNER'S forehead. GAGNE said that AMANDA BORTNER told her that CHAD EVANS was holding KASSIDY BORTNER in his arms when he walked around a corner and hit her head on the wall.

GAGNE stated that in the past she has seen bruises on KASSIDY BORTNER'S forehead and AMANDA BORTNER has explained these bruises by saying that KASSIDY had fallen down. GAGNE said she remembered a bruise on KASSIDY BORTNER'S eye and AMANDA BORTNER told her the bruise was caused by a little girl KASSIDY BORTNER was playing with had hit her while playing."

GAGNE said that recently AMANDA BORTNER told her that she brought KASSIDY BORTNER to Kittery to be baby-sat overnight because CHAD EVANS parents were coming to Rochester, NH to stay at CHAD EVANS house and she did not want the parents to see the bruises on KASSIDY BORTNER."

NOTE: The telephone interview is reported to have occurred on 11/12/00. Gagne's last saw Amanda and Cassidy about three weeks prior. This would be consistent with Shannon's statement to me that she saw Amanda and Cassidy about a week to a week and a half prior to Cassidy's death at the Olympia Sports Shop.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
CONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATION REPORT

3213

1. CASE NO. MCI-00-216	2. INVESTIGATING TROOPER Sgt. James W. White	3. I.D. NO. 650	4. TOWN OF CRIME Rochester	5. TN. CD. ****	6. DATE OF REPORT 11-09-00
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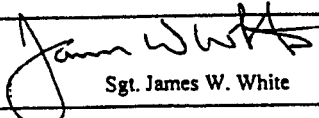
On Wednesday, November 21, 2001, at about 1400 hours, I spoke by telephone with,

SHANNON GAGNE  
PO Box 273  
Springvale, ME 04083  
H: [REDACTED]  
W: [REDACTED]

I asked GAGNE if she had recalled anything else, since her first interview with the police, following KASSIDY'S death. GAGNE said she couldn't recall anything else. She said she hadn't seen A. BORTNER since a couple of days after KASSIDY'S death. GAGNE said she had learned from VICKI NORMAN that A. BORTNER had gone to Texas. GAGNE said that she remembers A. BORTNER crying a lot and saying "I can't believe someone would do this to me."

I asked GAGNE if A. BORTNER had ever attributed blame to anyone for KASSIDY'S death. GAGNE said she hadn't really thought about it until I asked but she did remember some things. GAGNE said A. BORTNER hadn't directly attributed blame, but GAGNE surmised it was between EVANS and J. MARSHALL. GAGNE said she leaned more toward EVANS because of what A. BORTNER had said about J. MARSHALL and J. CONLEY (A. BORTNER'S sister). GAGNE remembers A. BORTNER telling her about J. MARSHALL and J. CONLEY "They're both so good with KASSIDY. I know my sister would never do this to me, I know Jeff would never do this to me." GAGNE also remembered A. BORTNER telling her, prior to KASSIDY'S death, "They're both wicked good with Kassidy, Kassidy loves going over there."

End of Report

	Page 1 of 1	SIGNED  Sgt. James W. White	DATE 11/28/01
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MAINE STATE POLICE  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION I  
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

INCIDENT #: K20435897      CASE: HOMICIDE (KASSIDY BORTNER)

NAME: SHANNON GAGNE [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: 521 Main Street, Springvale, ME 04083

TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]

EMPLOYMENT: Not employed

OFFICER: Det. Jeffrey A. Linscott <sup>SAC</sup> I.D. #: 2930

DATE: 11/12/00      TIME START: 1315 Hrs.      TIME END: 1335 Hrs.

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Telephone

Approved:

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SHANNON GAGNE stated that AMANDA BORTNER got into the drug and partying scene when she lived in Sanford. GAGNE stated she last saw AMANDA BORTNER and KASSIDY BORTNER about three weeks ago when she went to Rochester, NH to see them and meet CHAD EVANS. GAGNE stated she saw a bruise on KASSIDY BORTNER'S forehead. GAGNE said that AMANDA BORTNER told her that CHAD EVANS was holding KASSIDY BORTNER in his arms when he walked around a corner and hit her head on the wall. GAGNE stated in the past she has seen bruises on KASSIDY BORTNER'S forehead and AMANDA BORTNER has explained these bruises by saying that KASSIDY had fallen down. GAGNE said she remembered a bruise on KASSIDY BORTNER'S eye and AMANDA BORTNER told her the bruise was caused by a little girl KASSIDY BORTNER was playing with had hit her while playing. GAGNE said that recently AMANDA BORTNER told her that she brought KASSIDY BORTNER to Kittery to be babysat overnight because CHAD EVANS parents were coming to Rochester, NH to stay at CHAD EVANS house and she did not want the parents to see the bruises on KASSIDY BORTNER. GAGNE said she has seen AMANDA BORTNER and KASSIDY BORTNER about three times since AMANDA BORTNER started dating CHAD EVANS.

### **Alleged Statements of Interest**

1. Gagne states she last saw Amanda and Cassidy about three weeks ago **when she went to Rochester, NH to see them and meet Chad.**
2. **At this time she saw a bruise on Cassidy's forehead.** Gagne said that Amanda told her that Chad was holding Cassidy in his arms **when he *walked around a corner and hit her head on the wall.***
3. Gagne stated in the past she has seen bruises on Cassidy's forehead and Amanda has explained these bruises by saying that Cassidy had fallen down.
4. Gagne said she remembered a bruise on Cassidy's eye and Amanda told her the bruise was caused by a little girl Cassidy was playing with had hit her while playing.

### 2. **Trial Transcript of Gagne's Testimony**

#### **Direct Examination by Attorney Browne - Booklet/Transcript Number VI - Page 94:**

- Q "When did you work at Olympia Sports?"
- A "It was last summer."
- Q "Do you know the dates, the months that you worked there?"
- A "Not exactly. I ended there. I think it was the beginning of July, but I'm not really positive. It was June/July, some where around those areas."
- Q "When you saw Amanda at Olympia Sports, who was with her?"
- A "Cassidy."
- Q "Did you see anything about Cassidy?"
- A "**There was a bruise on her forehead.** and I had asked Amanda what had happened, and she said that Chad went to put her to bed on night and Cassidy was fighting because she didn't want to go to bed and ***she had banged her head off the wall on accident.***"
- Q "Can you describe that bruise?"

A "It wasn't *very big; just a little thing*. It was starting to discolor, like it had been there for like a week or so."

Q "Can you point on your own face roughly where it was?"

A "It was probably like right above her right eye."

**Page 95:**

"Like around her eyebrow area."

Q "And you said that later that night you went over to the defendant's home?"

A "I did. A couple of hours after I had got out of work, I had gone to Rochester to meet Chad."

Q "Did you see Amanda after that, or talk to her?"

A "I might have saw her maybe once or twice, but it was no more than that..."

Q "...Did you ever discuss that bruise with her again?"

A "I actually did. I'm not quite sure how it came up, but she did tell me a different story the second time. She had told me that she was playing with a little girl and the little girl had hit her in the face."

Q "Hit Kassidy in the face?"

A "In Kassidy's face."

Q "Was she talking about the same injury?"

A "Im almost positive."

Q "Okay. You said after seeing her at your workplace, you saw her once or twice more, right?"

A "Right."

**Page 97:**

Q "I want to backtrack a little to the time you saw Amanda at Olympia Sports."

A "Okay."

Page 98:

Q "Okay. You mentioned two different things she told you."

A "Uh-huh."

Q "All right. Can you make it clear exactly what she told you the first time you asked?"

A "The first time I had asked about the bruise, and she had said that Chad Evans went to put Cassidy to bed one night, and Cassidy, being a little girl, didn't want to go to bed at the time. And when Chad was bringing her up the stairs, Cassidy had banged her head off the wall."

Q "And you talked to her again, correct?"

A "I talked to her again a couple of days after, and had asked how Cassidy was doing. And she went into detail that a little girl had hit her in the face. And I'm assuming she was talking about the same bruise, *because I never saw another one on her besides that one that was on her forehead.*"

Cross-Examination by Attorney Cronheim

Page 99:

Q "I'll represent to you that the State's provided to us a report indicating that you spoke with Detective Lindscott November 12 of 2000 ---"

A "Okay."

Q "...Okay. Now, in this report you've indicated that you saw Cassidy about three times after Chad and Cassidy -- after Cassidy and Amanda were with Chad?"

A "After Chad and Amanda had met?"

Q "Yes."

A "I don't believe so."

Q "Okay. so this report is wrong on that information, as well?"

A "Correct."

Page 101:

- Q ... 'Okay. And there was another time that you spoke with Amanda about Kassidy had some bruising, correct?"
- A "Correct."
- Q **"And you're piecing things together? You don't know if Amanda was talking about the same event or not, correct?"**
- A "Correct."
- Q "Now, in those situations you don't, in fact, know whether -- know how Kassidy was injured, correct?"
- A **"Correct."**

**Testimony Statements of Interest**

1. Gagne testified that she met Amanda and Kassidy at Olympia Sports and observed a bruise, a **"bulge the size of an egg"** on her forehead.
2. Gagne testified that Amanda said Chad tried putting Kassidy to bed and Kassidy **"had banged her head off the wall on accident."**
3. Gagne testified that the bruise **"wasn't very big; just a little thing. It was starting to discolor, like it had been there for like a week or so."**
4. Gagne testified that "A couple of hours after I had got out of work, I had gone to Rochester to meet Chad."
5. Gagne testified that Amanda told her (about the bruise) that: "She had told me that **she was playing with a little girl and the little girl had hit her in the face.**"
6. 'When asked if Gagne was talking about the same injury, she testified: **"I'm almost positive."**
7. Gagne testified that she had seen "her" once or twice more."
8. Gagne testified that when she saw Kassidy at Olympia Sports and asked about the bruise on her face Amanda "had said that Chad went to put Kassidy to bed one night, and Kassidy, being a little girl, didn't want to go to bed at the time. **And when Chad was bringing her UP the stairs, Kassidy had banged her head off the wall."**

9. Gagne testified that she talked to Amanda a couple of days after and Amanda "went into detail that a little girl had hit her in the face. And I'm assuming she was talking about the same bruise, **because I never saw another one on her besides that one that was on her forehead.**"
10. Gagne testified that she "spoke to Amanda once when Cassidy had a bump on her forehead, ... (And Mr. Cronheim asked) **she indicated that Chad and Cassidy were going down the stairs at Chad's house.**"
11. Gagne testified that Amanda **..didn't state where it had happened. She just said that Chad was about to put Cassidy to bed. She didn't get into details.**"
12. Gagne testified when asked by Mr. Cronheim, if "there was a bump on the stairs? Cassidy bumped her head on the stairs? - (Gagne) that Cassidy had "Bumped her head off the corner of the wall."

**Summation of February 12, 2008 Telephone Interview with Shannon Gagne - Home Phone Number: 603-343-5592.**

Shannon was advised that Amanda stated that she (Amanda) and Cassidy visited her (Shannon) at Olympia Sports about a week or so prior to Cassidy's death. At that time, Cassidy was not observed as having any bruises, cuts, etc., on her face.

Shannon said that was not true. Cassidy had a bruise/**bulge the size of an egg** on her forehead. When Shannon asked Amanda what happened, Amanda informed her that Cassidy had fallen off of a trampoline.

**Comment:** I need Chad to advise if this was around the same time that Cassidy fell out of Marshall's truck?

Shannon stated that she had **baby-sat and bathed Cassidy for at least one month prior to her death and at various times from the middle of October, 2000 up until the time of her death.** With the exception of the egg size bulge on her forehead, **she never observed or detected any other bruising, cuts or indications of physical/emotional abuse with young Cassidy.**

Shannon stated that Amanda was a good, caring and loving mother and Chad was a good man. Cassidy was always a funny, bubbly, active and outgoing baby..."best kid." While at Olympia Sports, **Cassidy was running and having a good time consistent with a baby her age. There were no physical limitations, obvious pain, limping, crying or any other negative signs or indications that Cassidy was suffering from any sort of physical abuse.**



Shannon emphasized that from at least **one complete month or more prior to Cassidy's death, the only bruise she observed, detected or became aware of was the egg size bulge on Cassidy's forehead** reported by Amanda to have occurred when Cassidy fell off of a trampoline.

Shannon stated that the police informed her that Cassidy had suffered 21 broken bones and severe internal bleeding at the time of her death. Shannon, who is a medical assistant, found this to be unbelievable and to this day does not believe the extent of Cassidy's alleged injuries.

Much to my surprise, when I asked Shannon if she had spoken and/or seen Amanda following her imprisonment; Shannon stated that she and Amanda keep in touch via e-mail and had e-mailed her about two weeks ago.

***Amanda had stated to me when I met with her "I haven't talked to her (Gagne) in years."***

Shannon asked for Amanda's phone number. I advised Shannon that I had promised Amanda that I would not release her phone number and/or address without her permission. Shannon said that was all right, she would e-mail Amanda later on that evening.

Shannon went on to say that she does not believe for one minute that Chad is guilty and that Amanda never did anything wrong and should not have been sent to prison.

These additional lies and contradictions, as stated above, support the mounting evidence of unprofessional and amateuristic investigation by the authorities and certain witnesses as outlined and documented in my previous correspondence.

#### **Christian Counseling Services, San Antonio, Texas**

I received a phone call from the above captioned service in response to my previous letters of inquiry. The exact name of the counselor and dates of treatment for Amanda has to be presented for proper research. Amanda has already stated she does not know the full name of her counselor or the exact dates of treatment.

#### **Amanda**

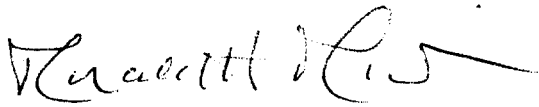
I have yet to hear from Amanda regarding my requests for pictures of Cassidy. I also expect to hear from her regarding her anticipated conversation with Melissa Chick and, the e-mail sent to her from Gagne.

I believe I am zeroing in on Tracey Foley, I have a few other calls to make to be sure she is at the address reported. When I called the reported phone number I was informed that no one with her name lives there.

I will be returning to New Hampshire and Maine within the immediate future to visit Pierce and begin talking with the jurors.

I will keep you posted on matters as they develop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald H. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ronald H. Rice