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## **Amanda Bortner moves moves into home of her child's killer**

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DOVER — The mother of a 21-month-old girl beaten to death in 2000 has moved back into the home of her daughter's convicted murderer.

A financial affidavit filed Friday at Strafford County Superior Court lists Amanda Bortner's current address as 191 Milton Road in Rochester, the home owned by Chad E. Evans.

Evans, 30, was convicted in December of second-degree murder and multiple counts of assault in connection with Kassidy Bortner's death on Nov. 9, 2000. He is serving a sentence of 28 years to life at New Hampshire State Prison in Concord.

When Evans' conviction was appealed last month, financial affidavits filed in connection with that appeal listed the Rochester property in his name.

Bortner, 20, brought her daughter to live with Evans at the Rochester home about three months before the child's death. The affidavit was filed in connection with Bortner's upcoming child endangerment trial.

Bortner resided in the Lakes Region after Evans' bail was revoked when the pair violated a no contact order by living together in the Keene area prior to his trial.

Bortner is paying \$300 per month to live in the brown two-story house on Milton Road, according to the affidavit. The affidavit also indicates Bortner is working part-time at Yoken's restaurant in Portsmouth.

Bortner is scheduled to stand trial in November on two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child in connection with Kassidy's death. Bortner's decision to go to trial came during a hearing earlier this month at which he was expected to enter a guilty plea.

"She's innocent and the circumstances surrounding Kassidy's death are not related to Amanda ... I think she feels a lot's been said and she feels a trial will be a chance to speak on Kassidy's behalf and also on her own," Patricia Wiberg, Bortner's court-appointed counsel, said after Bortner decided against entering a guilty plea.

Bortner was scheduled to enter a "naked plea" to the charges, which means

prosecutors refused to offer any negotiated plea agreement. Prosecutor David Ruoff of the New Hampshire attorney general's office said that whether or not Bortner enters a plea, the state recommends the maximum penalty of two consecutive one-year sentences in jail.

Kassidy's death was caused by blunt-force injuries to her head and abdomen following many weeks of abuse at Evans' hands. Bortner testified during Evans' trial that he would grab her daughter's face and "roughly" place Kassidy in the corner. Bortner acknowledged seeing bruises on Kassidy's face from Evans' conduct, and said she and Evans agreed not to seek medical attention for the toddler until the bruises faded.

The charges pending against Bortner allege she failed to protect Kassidy from Evans' abuse and violated a duty of care to Kassidy based on her alleged conduct the day the toddler died.

Evans inflicted the blows that caused Kassidy's death sometime between the evening of Nov. 8 and the early morning of Nov. 9, 2000, according to court documents.

Bortner then drove the bruised toddler from Rochester to the Kittery, Maine, home of her sister, Jennifer Bortner-Conley, about 8 a.m. The sisters went to work and Bortner-Conley's boyfriend, F. Jefferey Marshall, was the last person to see Kassidy alive. She was pronounced dead at York Hospital after Marshall called paramedics for the unresponsive toddler about 12:30 p.m.

In a videotaped interview with detectives on the day Kassidy died, Evans said Bortner would hit the girl. He also said Bortner called the toddler "a little bitch" and other derogatory names.

When asked about her client's frame of mind after the June 10 hearing, Wiberg said Bortner is "grieving" and "trying to get her life back on track."

Bortner's trial is scheduled to begin with jury selection Nov. 4 at Strafford County Superior Court, however, if Bortner decides to enter a naked plea she may do so at any time prior to the trial date.