

**Transcript of WMUR-TV broadcast at 11:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10:
(transcript prepared by Sandy Gelinis, Rochester on February 13, 2011)**

**"10 Years After Child's Death, Chad Evans Maintains Innocence -
Rochester Man Says He Was Wrongly Convicted Of Murder"**

Announcer:

Ten years ago, it was a crime that shocked many here in New Hampshire. A 21-month old girl was rushed to the hospital and died. Police said a Rochester man had abused her so badly it led to her death. Despite his claims of innocence, Chad Evans was convicted of murder. And now there is a new movement to get a second look at his case. WMUR's Sean McDonald spoke with Evans, One-on-One to get his side of the story.

Sean McDonald:

It was 10 years ago New Hampshire learned the names, Cassidy Bortner, and Chad Evans.

Medical Examiner (at Chad's trial):

The injuries that I saw on Cassidy Bortner were consistent with battered child syndrome.

Sean McDonald:

Evans was accused of abusing Cassidy, the 21-month old daughter of his girlfriend, and eventually causing her death.

Judge (at Chad's trial):

How do you find the defendant: Guilty or Not Guilty?

Juror (at Chad's trial):

Guilty

Sean McDonald:

The Rochester man was convicted of second degree murder in a circumstantial case based on witness testimony. His family and supporters were stunned.

Dorothy Urrutia (friend of Chad Evans, after the trial):

NOT GUILTY!

Sean McDonald:

Now there seems to be a growing chorus of people asking the question, did the jury get it right?

Sean McDonald:

Did you kill Cassidy Bortner?

Chad Evans:

I absolutely did not kill Cassidy Bortner. I had nothing to do with abusing Cassidy, or her death.

Sean McDonald:

We spoke with Chad Evans from the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord.

Chad Evans:

There's not a day that goes by that you know, I don't think about her.

Sean McDonald:

It was the summer of 2000 when Chad Evans and Amanda Bortner moved in together in Rochester with Cassidy, Amanda's daughter from a previous relationship. According to the AG's office, a pattern of abuse soon started that was so severe it would eventually cause Cassidy to die a few months later. But Evans maintains he didn't do it.

Chad Evans:

I never spanked her, I never slapped her, I never punched her, I never kicked her, never threw her into walls.

Sean McDonald:

Evans says he doesn't know how Cassidy died, but that the state didn't consider other possible alternatives for her death. Cassidy, he says, had many childhood falls and accidents that could explain her injuries. He does admit to causing some bruises, but not intentionally.

Chad Evans:

Either I held her face too firmly or too long. We don't know why she bruised so easily. I mean I held my son's cheeks like that in his earlier years and never had he bruised. So I just... It's a mystery.

Sean McDonald:

Evans also points out Cassidy was in the care of a babysitter when she died that November morning, but still investigators focused on him.

Chad Evans:

It was so focused and streamlined and at that time, you know that this guy was the one that did it. So let's make the investigation fit to that. But they didn't look at anything, anywhere else there might have been evidence.

Sean McDonald:

Investigators did look at the babysitter, but ruled him out as a suspect. Now there is a website set up by a family friend called Chad Evans Wrongly Convicted that spells

out so-called new evidence. They say Cassidy's blood was found under her own fingernails, a fact not talked about at trial.

Chad Evans:

If someone's testifying that she was laying there and non-responsive all morning, then how does she get blood under every one of her fingernails?

Sean McDonald:

Chad also says he recently passed a lie detector test about the case, and he says police didn't look closely enough at the possibility Cassidy died from a head injury from a recent fall.

Chad Evans:

I have friends and supporters, people that thought like right off the bat in Rochester, like something's wrong with this case. It doesn't make any sense.

Sean McDonald:

But there is another side to the story. The state says numerous witnesses reported Cassidy had many bruises leading up to her death. At trial, the medical examiner said Cassidy's injuries were severe and consistent with abuse, not accidents. Chad Evans also has a history of abuse with adults. He was found guilty of assaulting his former wife and Cassidy's mother, Amanda. And Evans says Cassidy looked okay the hours before she was sent to the babysitter that fateful day. Her body told a different story.

Medical Examiner (at Chad's trial):

Kassidy did have multiple bruises. There did appear to be both old and recent bruises.

Sean McDonald:

A jury saw that as evidence to convict. Evans is now serving an enhanced sentence of 43 years. He'll be eligible for parole when he reaches his 70's. He spends his time reading, writing letters and hoping someone will see his case differently.

Chad Evans:

I just keep searching every day for truth. Maybe someone else to come forward, maybe some other piece of evidence out there.

Announcer:

Evans told Sean McDonald that he is now hoping the state will take a second look at his case. But the Attorney General's office has said so far it has seen nothing to cast doubt on his conviction. We did try to reach Amanda Bortner for comment through a friend. She wasn't ready to talk about the case.