



# Grandfather: Missing Maine girl's dad not communicating with family

By the CNN Wire Staff

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Authorities in Waterville on Monday offered a \$30,000 reward for information that would lead investigators to Ayla Reynolds.

## Story highlights

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20-month-old Ayla Reynolds was last seen more than a week ago

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Ayla was at her father's home at the time

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A \$30,000 reward is being offered for information in the case

The grandfather of a missing 20-month-old Maine girl repeated over and over Wednesday night that the girl's father has not been in touch with the family, even as the father reiterated he doesn't know what happened to her.

"Nothing, not a word, nothing," Ron Reynolds told HLN's Nancy Grace.

"My daughter tried to talk to him. Nothing's coming back ... nothing is being said."

Police said Wednesday they have received 370 leads in the disappearance of Ayla Reynolds, who was last seen December 16 when her father, Justin Dipietro, said he put her to bed.

Earlier Wednesday, Dipietro said he doesn't know what happened to her.

"It is important the public hear it from me personally that I have no idea what happened to Ayla and that I am not hiding," Dipietro said in a statement.

The toddler's mother, Trista Reynolds, told NBC's "Today" this week that the girl's disappearance rests squarely on his shoulders.

"I trusted him to keep her safe and now she is missing," she said. "I don't know where she is and I blame him right now, because he did not protect her the way that he was supposed to."

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Authorities in Waterville on Monday offered a \$30,000 reward for information that would lead investigators to find the girl. Police are confident that someone took Ayla from the house, Police Chief Joseph Massey said.

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Ayla is described as having blond hair, being about 2 feet, 9 inches tall, and weighing 30 pounds. She was last seen wearing green pajamas with white polka dots and the words "Daddy's Princess" across the front. When she disappeared, the girl had her arm in a soft cast.

Dipietro, 24, said he would never do anything to hurt Ayla, who was in his sole custody when she disappeared.

"The questions of Ayla's arm or bruises or anything else being said are simply ludicrous," Dipietro said in his statement. "I would never want anyone to spend even a minute in my shoes. No one should ever have to experience this."

Police searched Dipietro's home with his permission.

The day before the girl went missing, her 23-year-old mother filed a complaint seeking sole custody.

She told HLN she didn't tell Dipietro she was going to court because he was "vindictive" and "verbally abusive."

"Now, me and him had had the discussion within that week that he told me himself that he was going to file the custody papers against me," Reynolds said. "So I decided to go and file against him."

The mother told Grace that she had raised Ayla for 18 months and Dipietro became involved only after "I needed to go and get a little bit of help for myself." She told HLN she underwent rehab.

Police do not have anyone connected to the case in custody.

In his statement Wednesday, Dipietro thanked those who are aiding the effort to find his daughter.

"I have to believe that Ayla is with somebody and I just want that person to find the courage to do the right thing and find a way to return her safely," the father said. "The truth is the truth and when the case is solved it will be out there. Until then, please try to remain positive and hopeful as I remain confident that Ayla will return safely."