

US

# Home of missing Maine toddler Ayla Reynolds hit by vandals, police say

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Ayla Reynolds (AP)

WATERVILLE, Maine – Two windows were broken at the home where a toddler was reported missing seven weeks ago, officials said Saturday.

The missing girl's grandmother called police at about 11:15 p.m. Friday to report that someone was throwing things through the windows at her Waterville home, police said in a statement.

When officers arrived, they found that two windows had been broken. Police believe the windows were smashed by a bat or something else that they didn't find any rocks or other objects at the home.

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Twenty-month-old Ayla Reynolds was reported missing from the home Dec. 17 by her father, Justin DiPietro, who lives there with his mother. DiPietro told police he last saw Ayla when he put her to bed the night before.

Police are calling her disappearance a crime and have said that DiPietro and two other adults in the home that night haven't been totally forthcoming. Police have confirmed that Ayla's blood was found in the partially finished basement that DiPietro used as his bedroom.

After the girl's grandmother called police Friday night, a search of the surrounding area didn't turn up anything, police said. A police dog followed a track that ended at a nearby street.

Nobody was hurt, but Police Chief Joseph Massey said somebody could have been injured by flying glass.

"It scares people," he said. "And it could escalate into a confrontation between the occupants of a home and the suspect."

State police and warden service divers searched stretches of the Kennebec River and a nearby stream on Friday as part of the ongoing investigation, but didn't turn up anything new.

At the time of her disappearance, Ayla was living with her father in Waterville. Her mother, Trista Reynolds, lives in Portland, about 75 miles south.

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