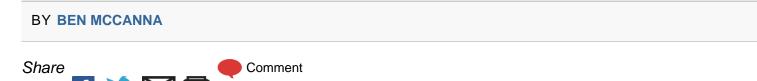
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Investigators meet with missing toddler Ayla Reynolds' mother on Thursday

Investigators met with Trista Reynolds, the mother of Ayla Reynolds, on Thursday for a review of the investigation into the toddler's disappearance, said Department of Public Safety spokesman Steve McCausland.



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"I'm not getting into specifics, but we shared the status of the case with Trista, as we had with the relatives from Waterville," he said Friday.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



Trista Reynolds takes a moment during a vigil in Castonguay Square in Waterville for her missing toddler, Ayla Reynolds, on Jan 28. Staff file photo by Michael G. Seamans





Ayla Reynolds Contributed file photo



Reynolds did not respond to a reporter's requests for an interview this week, but she has said that investigators planned to show her evidence that has been gathered over the past year since the child disappeared, along with items that were recovered from the Kennebec River during searches near the Lockwood Dam by state police last spring.

In October, investigators met with members of Ayla's paternal family from Waterville — father Justin DiPietro, aunt Elisha DiPietro and grandmother Phoebe DiPietro.

An attorney for Phoebe and Elisha DiPietro has said the October meeting included an update of the investigation and a review of the physical evidence that has been collected.

McCausland, during a press conference last month, described the October meeting as a frank conversation with the paternal family. McCausland on Friday wouldn't characterize the tone of this week's meeting with Reynolds.

"We gave her specifics that we felt a mother should know," he said.

Ayla was reported missing on Dec. 17, 2011, by her father. No one has been named as a suspect. Justin DiPietro contends that Ayla was abducted. Police say a kidnapping did not happen, and they believe the three adults who saw her last — her father, aunt and Courtney Roberts — are withholding information in the case.

Investigators also believe Ayla is dead. State police are asking that anyone with information call them at 624-7076.

Ben McCanna — 861-9239

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