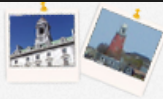




Around Town
Portland



Ayla's mom: DiPietro's house was "like a murder scene"

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Submitted by Caroline Cornish
Monday, September 23rd, 2013, 5:44pm

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PORTLAND, Maine (NEWS CENTER) -- The mother of missing toddler Ayla Reynolds is sharing information that she says police have told her, but have not revealed to the public. Trista Reynolds says she's speaking out to pressure the state to prosecute Ayla's father, Justin DiPietro, in connection with Ayla's death.

December will mark two years since Ayla went missing from DiPietro's Waterville home. Police have said they do not believe the little girl, who was 20 months old when she disappeared, is alive. Police say Ayla's father, Justin DiPietro, his sister, Elisha and his girlfriend, Courtney Roberts were the only people home the night Ayla disappeared, and they have revealed some of Ayla's blood was found at the home.

But Trista Reynolds said the photos of the DiPietro's home that police showed her back in January have broken her heart, and made her angry. Reynolds said, "Its like a murder scene. literally looked like a murder scene."

She showed us a written recollection of what she saw that day: Blood stains on DiPietro's mattress and sheets and on the family couch, and blood droplets or splatters on the wall and floor of DiPietro's room, his shoes, and Ayla's princess slippers. She said she saw one of Ayla's dolls with blood smears on it as if she used it to wipe her face. A plastic tote in the room had a sheet inside that Trista says police told her was likely used to clean blood up. And, she said, Ayla's blood and dried vomit was in DiPietro's car.

Trista said, "It was his house. His room. His car. His things. So that's what makes me believe, Justin. Whether he did or was trying to help her, he's the one who's to blame."

She said she confronted DiPietro about what she saw and he, "Didn't really say anything. Didn't really

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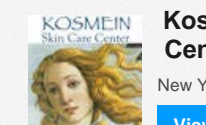
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have any emotion."

DiPietro has consistently declined our requests for an interview.

State Police will not confirm or deny anything that Trista told us. Public Safety Spokesperson Steve McCausland said police have given her information that has not been made public because she's Ayla's mom, but he would not reveal what that was.

McCausland said, "Trista has a right to say whatever she feels is appropriate, and we're not going to criticize her for that. No one in Maine would put themselves in Trista Reynolds' shoes."


Police also continue to call this a missing person's case, and they are not calling anyone a suspect in Ayla's disappearance. "This is a missing person," McCausland said. "That is what we have been working on since the day she disappeared. And that is the status of this investigation at this point."

Trista's family is publishing what it calls "The Case for Ayla" on the website <http://united4ayla.com>, and hoping that people will sign a petition urging the Attorney Generals' office to prosecute. Deputy Attorney General Bill Stokes refused our request for an interview.

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