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3 years after Ayla Reynolds disappeared, no answers

NEWS CENTER 5:55 p.m. EST December 17, 2014



(Photo: WCSH)

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(NEWS CENTER) -- It has been three years since Justin DiPietro called 911 to report his 20-month-old daughter, Ayla Reynolds, was missing from his family's home in Waterville. He said he put her to bed in her crib on December 16, 2011, and when he checked on her the next morning, she was gone.

Public safety officials said Ayla's disappearance is the largest criminal case in the state's history. They don't believe she's alive, but they don't have answers about what happened to her either. Public Safety Spokesperson Steve McCausland said leads are still coming into police. He said there have been 1400 leads so far, and detectives follow up on every single one. There also have been 20 searches. McCausland insists the case has far from gone cold.

"This is still active and ongoing," McCausland said. "The largest criminal case in Maine history. We are as determined today as we were three years ago."

But in many ways, little seems to have changed. McCausland said state police still want to hear more from DiPietro, his sister, Elisha, and his then-girlfriend Courtney Roberts, the three adults who were home the night Ayla disappeared. Police have said their story that they put her to bed and don't know what happened "doesn't pass the straight face test." Ayla's blood was found in the house.

"We still feel that those three adults in that home that night know more than they've told us, and our doors are always open to tell the full story," McCausland said.

Reynolds has said she is frustrated by the pace of the investigation. She admitted she's obsessed with trying to figure out where DiPietro lives so she can keep pressing him for answers herself. She confronted him last year when he went to court on an unrelated assault charge, chasing him down the street. He said nothing.

"And they can never say anything, but I will never stop. I'll never stop," Reynolds said. She also said she realized, though, that she needs to be careful because she has two young sons who need her, too.

In the meantime, Reynolds said, she's putting her faith in police. She's accused them of not doing enough in the past, but she said she's coming around to their point of view that true justice sometimes takes time.

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"I've come to realize that Ayla's life is in their hands. And if I'm angry with them, they're not going to tell me anything. I'm not going to get my answers. So, I've got to have faith in state police," Reynolds said.

And in this holiday season, Reynolds had a message for Ayla. "If she is out there somewhere and she sees me on TV, Mommy says, 'Merry Christmas' and I love her."

We were unable to reach Justin DiPietro, Elisha DiPietro or Courtney Roberts for comment.



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