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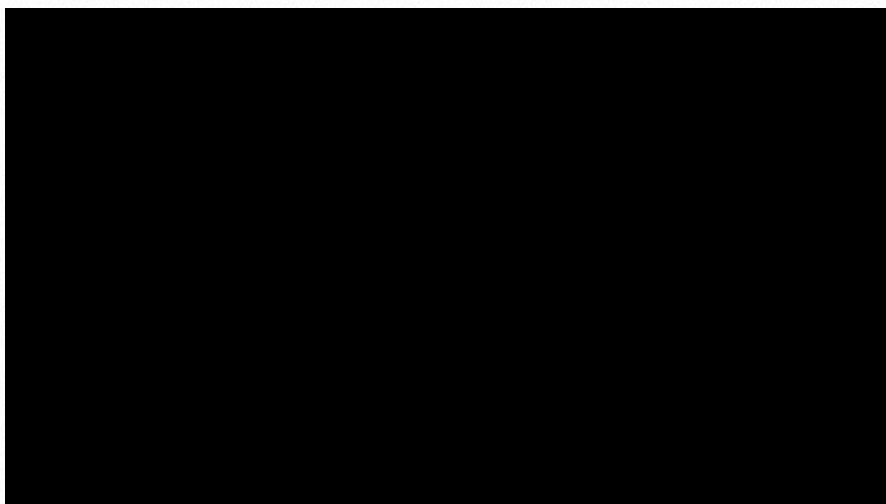
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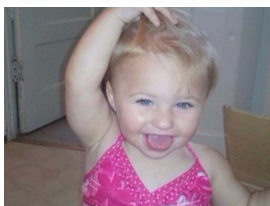


Ayla Reynolds' family to file civil lawsuit against DiPietros



Ayla Reynolds' family filing civil lawsuit

Chris Costa, WCSH 5:45 PM, EDT May 24, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy image)

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STANDISH, Maine (NEWS CENTER) — The family of Ayla Reynolds, a toddler who disappeared in December of 2011, announced Tuesday that they plan to file a civil lawsuit against one of the last people to see the child alive.

Reynolds' step-grandfather, Jeffery Hanson, said the family has retained a lawyer for the case, and that he hopes getting the DiPietros to testify under oath will allow the Attorney General's office to move forward with criminal charges.

In the civil suit, the family plans to charge Justin DiPietro, Ayla's father, with wrongful death.

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Reynolds was staying with him in Waterville when she went missing. She was 20 months old.

DiPietro, his girlfriend, and his sister were home at the time. None of them has been named as a suspect.

"We'll get the DiPietro's in court and they'll be under oath and perhaps the Maine State Attorney General's office will be able to use some of the civil suit against them for they are charges they want to press," said Hanson.

Hanson said that in missing persons cases in Maine, a family must wait five years before filing for a death certificate. The five-year anniversary of Ayla's disappearance is this coming December.

In addition to the five-year statute, Hanson said they must prove a diligent search was made. He said the state spent \$500,000 searching for Ayla, and he hopes the civil lawsuit will help them get closure.

Hanson said the family has retained a lawyer for the case.

They have set up a Go Fund Me page to pay for the legal fees. You can find [here](#).

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