

19-Year-Old Charged In Andover Baby's Death

By Ben Leubsdorf
Concord Monitor staff

From the March 20 Concord Monitor
MacKenzie McDaniel clutched her daughter's Lamb Chop doll, sobbing in the courtroom yesterday as a prosecutor listed the broken bones and brain injury that killed baby Kyleigh about a week after her first birthday.

Alexander Stolte, McDaniel's 19-year-old boyfriend, is accused of causing the Andover girl's fatal injuries Wednesday evening as he baby-sat Kyleigh at his mother's house in Vermont.

He pleaded not guilty to a charge of second-degree murder at his arraignment yesterday in Orange County District Court in Chelsea, Vermont. Stolte, a Penacook native who attended Merrimack Valley High School, faces up to life in prison if convicted.

"This little girl didn't deserve this," said Janine McDaniel, Kyleigh's grandmother, standing on the courthouse steps with friends and family after the hearing. "She will have justice."

Stolte was watching Kyleigh McDaniel at his mother's home, at 302 Brook Road in Chelsea, after MacKenzie McDaniel, 20, went to work Wednesday afternoon, according to the Vermont State Police.

He called 911 at 11:22 PM, later telling the police he checked on Kyleigh

and discovered she wasn't breathing. Stolte told investigators he put the girl to bed after giving her some cough medicine for a cold.

The girl, who turned one on March 9, was taken to Gifford Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead, the police said in an affidavit filed with the court.

A medical exam at the hospital found Kyleigh suffered multiple rear-skull fractures, bleeding inside her skull known as a subdural hematoma, and a spiral fracture to her right leg, the police said. An autopsy Thursday ruled her death a homicide, caused by "blunt impacts to the head," the police said.

Three of Kyleigh's ribs had earlier been broken and were healing, the police said.

Based on the severity of her injuries, "death would have occurred fairly quickly," Orange County State's Attorney Will Porter said yesterday, adding Stolte had "sole custody" of the child during the hours when the injuries would have occurred.

Stolte told investigators he was the only person at the home with Kyleigh but denied hurting her, the police said. He did say the girl had tripped into her walker earlier in the evening.

Stolte frantically called MacKenzie
See Baby on page 14

Letters

We are very grateful and appreciative to the Andover Rescue Squad for their response to Pat's medical emergency on Sunday, February 7. The demonstrated concern and sensitive care accorded to her by the respondents was remarkable and something we shall not forget. To us, your unselfish dedication and service to the citizens of Andover is special and cannot be overstated.

Also: Heather, John, Ben, Rene, and the others – Pat and I cannot thank you enough for the help, twice in one day on a Sunday, and for staying with Pat until the wee hours of Monday morning until the emergency situation was under control. We've sent a donation as a very small token of our gratitude to you all and for what you do.

With best wishes,

Paul and Pat Goneau

On March 5, while at AE/MS, our daughter required immediate medical attention. 911 was called and the Andover Rescue Squad was dispatched. We have been overwhelmed with the amount of compassion and concern from everyone in town.

We would especially like to thank Heather Hill and the Rescue Squad. After being called to assist with our daughter, they never left her side. Heather was calm in the middle of the storm, and offered emotional support to us in the ER. Thanks to Lee Donaldson for first realizing something was terribly wrong, Jen Bent for keeping everyone informed, the Furtkamps for taking in our younger daughter as though she was one of their own, and to all of you who have supported us with your good will.

We will forever be grateful to the extraordinary efforts of the Andover Rescue Squad. Their willingness to stop

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their daily routine to help our daughter will never be forgotten.

We would like to express thanks and gratitude for their efforts and to the town for supporting the necessary warrants to move our emergency rescue service forward. These men and women deserve reliable financial resources to perform their heroic deeds.

Thank you,

Sarah and Erik Anderson

In regards to ambulance billing, I heard many people grumble about "double dipping" and "too expensive." I'm hoping to dispel these concerns.

Every time we pay into Medicare/Medicaid or pay a premium for private insurance, our money goes out of town. In the case of private insurance, our money goes to a large corporation out of state, and of course Medicare goes to a federal bureaucracy. However, when a resident is treated or transported by the Andover ambulance some of those premiums are brought back to the local economy. It is not unlike the "Buy Local" theory.

Every time we bring money back into our economy through a necessary service like ambulance treatment or transport we help to offset taxes. But with billing for EMS services comes a responsibility of a hardship committee to look at individual cases in regard to their ability to pay.

High quality and timely EMS is necessary for each resident of Andover, and it's reimbursable, which means that some of our premiums and taxes are returned to our local economy.

Todd Donovan

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

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