After Phoenix disappeared, her family discovered that she never enrolled for the upcoming semester in college and had previously lived with a boyfriend before moving back home. This was something she hid because her parents believed that sex should be saved for marriage.

At some point, according to friends, Phoenix started getting into rap music and experimenting with drugs. There’s nothing wrong with listening to rap music, but it wasn’t the type of music that Phoenix was known to enjoy, so her friends found it odd.

It eventually came to light that Phoenix was using two cell phones at the time of her disappearance, one that was paid for under her family’s plan, and one that she paid for herself. She used the second phone to communicate with a man so that her boyfriend, Michael B., wouldn’t find out. Michael B. was the boyfriend she had secretly been living with while she was in college.