Sandra Birchmore / Matthew Farwell Trial

October 29, 2026 — Day's End Report

Defense Case-in-Chief - Day 2

Reconstruction of Grant Smith Ellis's contemporaneous courtroom reporting • with separately attributed supplemental notes

Grant Smith Ellis (@GrantSmithEllis) • PayPal

Scope and Reconstruction Notes

This is a reconstruction of Grant Smith Ellis's live reporting, not an official transcript. Original post wording, quotations, spelling, and commentary are preserved as retrieved, with individual X links. Accuracy is prioritized, but errors may be present.

The October 29 author pull contains 100 unique statuses including retweets and unrelated posts. This report includes 65 courtroom-relevant posts from 8:42:51 AM through 10:52:11 AM ET, plus 2 separately labeled post-court follow-ups.

Known coverage gap in Grant's reporting: Grant left the courtroom to interview William Killroy and returned after Dr. Hull finished. A separately attributed note-based supplement now appears at that point; it is not Grant-authored reporting.

Exhibit handling: Descriptions of exhibits are retained as text; no exhibit images or appendices are added.

Sensitive testimony: Allegations and accounts of Sandra Birchmore's personal history are attributed to the reported testimony and are not independently verified findings.

Opening Proceedings and Preliminary Matters

8:42:51 AM ET Good morning from inside Boston's Moakley Federal Courthouse as we begin the second day of the defense's case in the Sandra Birchmore and Matthew Farwell trial.

Judge has already taken the bench, 3 minutes early.

We begin with a sidebah! [X source]

9:04:14 AM ET Sidebah over.

"Counsel, I did receive the proposed defense exhibits. Most of them are in. The July 1st journal entry. I also looked at the expert of the Killroy affidavit. I think all the doctor Hull exhibits are in. And I looked at the video as to Ms. Bulger, 764. Umm, as to the one line from the redacted affidavit, 733, is there still an objection from the government?"

"Yes, your honor, it is a hearsay and 4093 as youre honor ruled in docket 271. It creates confusion, misleading, the jury mmight think it is from this case."

"Yes, and I assuming the government doesn't object to the testimony itself being elicited?"

"Subject to the court order, no objection. The objection is the affidavit which is douvble hearsay and misleading and confusing as it says affidavit and at the top it says recent incidents of abuse."

"Yes, counsel, I guess I thought defense counsel would elicit this testimony."

"Yes, your honor, we won't introduce it unless we need it after cross as a prior inconsistent statement and we will abide by all of the court's ruling. I instructed the witness to not mention the RO and I want to lead, with your honor's permission, if needed. We would like to offer his FBI 302 on the topic of the manner of their sexual relationship and consensual and non consensual behavior., I won't elicit that testimony but I want to file them as an offer of proof later."

"Understood counsel, I think on this record that is preserved, but okay."

"On the government's side I just got notice of 450, 451, and 452, are these in?"

"They are not your honor, and apologies for the late notice, I don't know if we will seek to admit them on cross it depends on the content of direct. These are all text chains between the witness and Sandra Birchmore that may become relevant based on the direct."

"Okay, counsel IU will look at them as jurors are coming in. As I understand it is Mr. Killroy, Dr. Hull and Ms. Bulger today?"

"Yes, your honor, and we sent 573 and 574 to the court which were admitted. The birth record, one page of Matthew Farwell."

"Counsel, why don't we get our jury, we'll start with the instruction I discussed with counsel then we'll start with Mr. Killroy."

"Your honor,' says Brian A. Fogerty, "we have raised that she has not been noticed as an expert so we will be objecting to testimony about her review of the autopsy or the forensic examination of Ms. Birchmore's body and also the defense has noticed two exhibits regarding Mr. Birchmore's hyoid bone, and to the extent they want to elicit testimony about the change in color of that tissue, we will object as that is expert witness testimony."

"I will only be eliciting fact testimony about her removing the bone from the jar." [X source]

9:04:22 AM ET "All rise for the jury!" [X source]

9:08:48 AM ET "Good morning jurors, before we get started I want to just stop and remind you about my cautionary instructions. As I told you at the start of this case and throughout, you must not discuss any aspect of this case with anyone, including each other. That includes the parties, the attorneys or the law, or any aspect of the evidence that comes up during a witnesses examination. This applies here in the court house, in route to the courthouse, at home or at any other place. I ask you, and remind you that it is important, to avoid doing so until the veidence is completed and you enter the deliberation room. You must not engage in any discussion with each other about the case until that time. Abiding by this rule and my other instructions about not reviewing coverage from outside sources or discussing the case with others is very important. Also, as I said at the consent, if you discuss this case with each other during trial, it can raise questions. If someone, anyone, tries to talk with you about this case, bring it to Ms. Cook's attention and I will address it. We appreciate your continued service and, with that, we will get started." [X source]

William Killroy — Defense Examination

9:09:14 AM ET It appears jurors were talking to each other about the case and someone reported them.

We move on.

"The defense calls William Killroy." [X source]

9:10:29 AM ET Oh my dear God.

He is tatted and wearing a sledgehammer chain."

He is very tall and is heavyset. He is larger is circumstance than William Farwell.

He has an Ace Of Spaces tattoo on his left forearm. [X source]

9:11:40 AM ET "What is your name?"

"Will Killroy?"

"Where did you graduate college?"

"Massasoit."

"When did you begin?"

"2017."

"Where do you work now?"

"Bay Core. A shelter."

"In Early Jan of 2016, did you meet Ms. Sandra Birchmore?"

"Yes. She came into the student center and she said she was tried and people were bugging her and she wanted to nap before her next class and I let her."

"Did you see her after that?"

"Yes we became friends and then we dated for a couple months." [X source]

9:12:09 AM ET "During those couple months did Sandra Birchmore lose her mom and her grandmother?"

"Her mom passed right before we started dating and her grandmother passed right as we ended dating." [X source]

9:13:13 AM ET "Did you know any struggles Ms. Birchmore was having?"

"Yes, she was depressed and upset and confused. I mean her mom and grandmother had passed."

"Did she talk with you about her relationship with her mom?"

"Yes, what she was comfortable sharing. She said her mom was hard to grow up around. Her mom was sick and using medications. It was hard on her to see that."

"What about her grandmother?"

"They were two peas in a pod! They were super close." [X source]

9:16:09 AM ET "Did she make statements about self harm to you while you were dating?"

"Yes."

"Can you look at this document?"

"Yes."

"Your honor can we display this?"

"Yes."

It is the pron and cons list Sandra wrote in 2017 about self harm. [X source]

9:17:53 AM ET "Are you familiar with the second page, the ways to do and not do it list, written by Ms. Birchmore?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"There we see reasons not to on the third page and one sign says I'm wonderful and amazing?"

"Yes, I wrote that at the bottom."

"Were you trying to help her as she was writing her thoughts?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Did she talk about wanting to hurt herself?"

"Not really directly, more just ideation. She wanted to join her grandmother which is understandable under the circumstances."

"Did you talk to you about her dad?"

"Only a few things. She talked about how I guess where there was an incident where her dad tried to sell her as a child for drug debts or something like that."

Fuck. [X source]

9:18:15 AM ET "Did you talk to you about her dad?"

"Only a few things. She talked about how I guess where there was an incident where her dad tried to sell her as a child for drug debts or something like that."

Fuck me. Oh dear God. Sandra. I'm so sorry. [X source]

9:18:42 AM ET "Did you see her start drinking at this time?"

"Yes, everyone in her family was an alcoholic, so I tried to discourse her from drinking when her mom and dad died." [X source]

9:19:11 AM ET I screamed out "oh, f**k!" in the media room.

People are stunned.

I am shocked.

I am very mad. [X source]

9:21:19 AM ET "Did you like to play video games and would she text you while you were doing so?"

"Yes."

"Was she a frequent texter?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Did you eventually break up with Ms. Birchmore?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"How did that go as you broke up?"

"Well, after we broke up it went from romantic to physical. We continued to see each other in a physical sense."

"Did you then meet a new girlfriend?"

"Yes, Sydney in December of 2016."

"When you started your reltaionship with Sydney did Ms. Birchmore know Sydney?"

"Yes, they were friends but it soured quickly after the breakup. They began to have arguments. After me and Sydney started dating they had a big public blow out in the student..."

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Would Ms. Birchmore let you be when you were with Sydney?"

"Objection form."

"Sustained."

"What happened after you and Sydney started dating?"

"Sandra would text and email me sometimes. She woulde call me." [X source]

9:23:24 AM ET "Did you try to separate from Ms. Birchmore entirely in Jan of 2018?"

"She continued to email me."

"Your honor, may I lead here...sir don't say anything right now."

"Were you aware she had a pregnancy around this time?"

"Yes."

"What did you learn?"

"A friend told me..."

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Did you talk to Ms. Birchmore about a pregnancy around 2018?"

"Yes, she said she had a miscarriage and said it was my baby."

"Did she say she was going to take her life?"

"Yes, she told me she would and she would write a note and put me as one of the reasons."

"Did you stop seeing her after that?"

"Yes, I did not see her after 2018."

"One moment your honor." [X source]

9:25:15 AM ET "Permission to show the witness exhibit 655. Did you go to Bunker Hill at some point?"

"I wanted to go yes."

"Have you seen this letter?"

The witness reads a hand written letter.

"I'm sorry, I don't remember this."

"It has been some years, I understand. Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Killroy." Nothing further, your honor." [X source]

William Killroy — Cross-Examination

9:26:25 AM ET "Cross?"

"Mr. Killroy, good morning, you said Ms. Birchmore was going to take her life and list you as one of the reasons?"

"Yes."

"Was that in 2017 ish?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"It was not 2019?"

"No, ma'am."

"Not 2020?"

"No, ma'am."

"Not 2021?"

"No, ma'am."

"And she also said she would write a note listing you as one of the reasons?"

"Yes."

"Was a note found when Ms. Birchmore was found dead?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained." [X source]

9:27:08 AM ET "At no point when you knew Sandra did she actually try to take her own life?"

"No, ma'am."

"You were never concerned she was actually going to take her life?"

"I was not concerned about that."

"Did you ever have to stop her from doing so?"

"No, ma'am, never." [X source]

9:28:51 AM ET "You dated Sandra after the loss of her mom and grandmother and this was a difficult time?"

"Yes, her mother died in June of 2016 and her grandmother soon after."

"You knew her father wasn't in her life, she had limited means and few family members?"

"Yes."

"You knew her mom had health issues for a while?"

"Yes."

"And you knew Sandra, at 18, made the decision to take her mother off life support?"

"Yes."

"And her grandmother, you said they were two peas in a pod, she lived but then passed away a month later?"

"Yes."

"And this was hard on Sandra, she had depressed moments and talked of taking her life?"

"Yes."

"And this was after she lost two people close to her, and at that point she was 19 or 20?"

"Yes."

"And she never attempted to take her life during that time?"

"Yes." [X source]

9:31:09 AM ET "And she started seeing a therapist?"

"Yes."

"And she got through the death of her mother and grandmother?"

"Objection."

"And you cared about her?"

"Yes."

"And you told her you would be dead without her?"

"Yes."

"Did you love her?"

"Yes, she was lovely. Even after losing her mom and grandmother she still made people laugh. She still made jokes."

"You were asked about a journal entry from the summer of 2017, you helped Sandra through a rough patch that summer?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"I want to ask you, you were asked about dating a woman named Sydney, that was hard for Sandra, when you started dating her?"

"Yes."

"And you had been with Sandra through the loss of her grandmother and mom so this was hard on her?"

"Yes."

"And Sydney and Sandra were friends before you started dating Sydney?"

"Yes."

"And that caused some tension with Sandra?"

"Yes."

"And you kept seeing Sandra while you were dating Sydney?"

"Unfortunately, yes, ma'am." [X source]

9:33:02 AM ET "And Sandra texted you ever day when you were dating Sydney?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And sometimes Sandra got upset with you and was sad?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Your honor, may I have moment."

"Yes."

"Mr. Killroy, you were asked about Sandra talking to you about her mental health and you helped and supported her?"

"Yes." [X source]

9:33:49 AM ET "It was your testimony, sir, that from 2016 to 2018 you saw her have some depressed moments?"

"Yes."

"But you also saw her have a lot of happy moments, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"She was strong, a fighter, resilient and someone who always pull through."

"Yes."

"Nothing further, your honor." [X source]

William Killroy — Redirect

9:36:27 AM ET "Redirect?"

"Yes, your honor."

Kimberly C. Stevens. She sounds deflated.

"Just for the witness, but, in light of the cross we want to show it to the jury your honor."

"Counsel, I don't see a basis for that, but you can repeat the question to this witness."

"Okay, yes your honor, I understand. May we show the document just to the witness?"

"Okay."

"Sir, do you recognize this document?"

"And, can you tell us what the top sentence says, in your handwriting?"

"Objection."

"Counsel, ask the question outright."

"Did you write threaten to comiitt suicide and "

"Objection."

"Ask him if he provided this statement?"

"Did you provide this statement?"

"Yes."

"Sire did you write threaten to commit suicide and blame me specifically?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And that's what happened during the breakup?"

"Thank you M<r. Killroy." [X source]

Coverage Gap: Dr. Hull; Caitlin Bulger Takes the Stand

Supplemental Reporting[1]

Notes by @pennylikeacoin · posted by Kristina Rex

The notes identify Hull as the chief medical examiner of Massachusetts, describe a credentials discussion, and record the assertion that OCME technicians receive forensic-pathology training.

The defense displayed photographs described in the notes as a stock jar of specimens, evidence bags, and blood tubes. The notes describe questioning about preservation and the appearance of the stock jar in a photograph taken approximately three years later.

The notes record that Hull was asked whether she was present when the thyroid bone was removed from the jar on one occasion, Hull answered yes. Asked whether that was how the stock jar appeared on that date, she answered that it probably was how it appeared. Asked whether it was routine to change the fluid in the stock jar, Hull said the fluid is kept the same unless there is a reason to open it.

The notes record a discussion of manner-of-death classifications: natural, homicide, suicide, accident, therapeutic complication, and undetermined. For “undetermined,” they describe the category as used when the other manners of death are not appropriate.

10:03:07 AM ET I am back in the courtroom.

Dr. Hull was only on the stand for a few minutes.

By the time I went outside to catch Killroy, uploaded my video, and came back inside, she was gone.

Caitlin Bulger is on the stand now. [X source]

10:03:44 AM ET "Did you cut the ligature from the doorknob?"

"Objection to form."

"Sustained."

"You removed it from the doorknob?"

"We slid it off the doorknob. If we have to cut, we will note it is cut." [X source]

10:04:17 AM ET "Where was the ligature?"

"Around the decedent's neck?"

"Was it tight or loose?"

"I did not make any observations."

The witness earlier noted she does not investigate. She only collected the body. [X source]

10:04:45 AM ET "So, the bag goes on the floor, then body goes into the bag?"

"Yes, we place the bag next to the decedent, then we roll them into the bag, then my partner and I lift the body bag onto the stretcher." [X source]

10:06:03 AM ET "When you were untying the ligature from the door handle, how did you support the body weight of the decedent?"

"We lift the body together. We lift depend on the body's position. I don't recall how we did that lift on this date." [X source]

10:06:53 AM ET "Did any of the LEO have body worn cameras at the scene?"

"I don't recall."

"Witness," says Judge, "please move the microphone closer to you and speak up."

"What did you do when the decedent was on the stretcher?"

"We leave the scene."

"Are other items collected?"

"Whatever is physically on a decedent is what we collect." [X source]

10:07:58 AM ET "Does that mean an inventory of what is on her person?"

"Yes, whatever is being worn is what we take with us."

"What did you take with you?"

"It's documented on our property sheet but I don't recall specifically."

"What report is that?"

"It should say property sheet."

"Not OCME removal report?"

"No, property sheet."

"Would the removal report note any property being removed from the scene?"

"Yes, and it says yes on that form." [X source]

10:08:49 AM ET "Did you observe the apartment itself?"

"I don't recall."

"Did you have an understanding if the scene was under investigation?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"What was the status of the investigation?"

"Objection."

"Counsel, I'm assuming foundation?"

"Yes."

"Sustained as to this." [X source]

10:09:35 AM ET "What circumstances, if any, are noted in the...there's a box in the report called circumstances?"

"Yes."

"What goes in that box?"

"Information reported to the intake department of the OCME by the police. Circumstances of the death. Anything of note intake may note." [X source]

10:11:05 AM ET I think it was Chip Yeaton who called it in.

This is Yeaton's note to the OCME about Sandra's death. It says she died of suicide and had "multiple bottles of antidepressants" and that Sandra was "tied to a door handle by a scarf." It notes "no suicide notes found at the time of the report."

"Counsel, ask another question here."

"Please start again at the word home?"

"Home is unkempt."

"Keep going."

"No foul play, CPAC is on scene. Scene is still under investigation." [X source]

10:13:32 AM ET "What does it say under further information?"

"Police reports and run sheets."

"Who asked for that information?"

"The OCME's office."

"What items did you request with regards to the death of Sandra Birchmore, the OCME?"

"The run sheets and the police reports?"

"May I have a moment your honor?"

"Yes."

"A few more questions; on the video you were wearing gloves, is that protocol?"

"Yes."

"Do you wear gloves when you handle bodies?"

"Yes."

"Understanding that you may not specifically recall this date, as to your training and protocol where exactly would you place your hands on the body of a dead person if you're removing them from a doorknob."

"Objection, asked and answered."

"Sustained as to this question counsel." [X source]

10:14:24 AM ET "Are you the only people, you and Mr. Adams, who handle the body?"

"Yes."

"The bag in question that was laid on the ground?"

"Once we're ready to proceed with the removal."

"What do you do first?"

"We inventory the items on the body."

"Do you take photos?"

"No, crime scene services does that."

"Were they present?"

"Yes." [X source]

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10:15:36 AM ET "Is jewelry removed from the body?"

"No, if it's physically on them, then we take it into our custody."

"What does that mean?"

"It stays with the body until we get back to the office."

"Do you go through the pockets or the clothing of the person who has died?"

"Yes."

"Did you do that in this case?"

"Yes."

"Did you make note of a pendent or chain?"

"No, it was just a watch."

"What kind of watch?"

"Black watch. It would be left on the person." [X source]

10:16:28 AM ET "What about anything else on the person who has died?"

"If they are wearing a hair tie or had bobby pins in their hair we would note it if we noticed them."

"Do you recall making any note of that?"

"No."

"Did you lay the body bag on the floor?"

"Yes after crime scene takes photos."

"Was there anything you recall on the floor at the time?"

"I don't." [X source]

10:17:42 AM ET "When someone is partially suspended, how do you place the body bag under their person when they are in that position?"

"We would place the decedent on the ground first, laying down and then roll them and put the bag underneath them that way."

"Okay, so the person is placed on the floor and then rolled over?"

"Yes."

"Is the body manipulated in any way to then enclose them in the body bag?"

"Nope, we roll them, place them in the body bag, roll them back to their original laying position and then close the bag." [X source]

10:18:45 AM ET "How do you lift?"

"Handles on the foot and head ends of the bag."

"Do you remember doing that in this case?"

"Not an exact memory."

"Is the body secured on the gurney?"

"Yes, with two sets of straps."

"Then what you do?"

"A cover is placed over the body bag and we go back to our truck."

"Did you go to another scene that day after this?"

"I don't think so."

"Did you go to Marlborough hospital?"

"I did not, no." [X source]

10:19:59 AM ET "What do multiple removals mean?"

"Multiple scenes in one outing."

"What was the order?"

"I believe I went to two calls prior to this call."

"How does that work?"

"We have multiple decedents in one vehicle."

"What was your memory as to that issue in this case?"

"I had two decedents in my truck and then this removal was a third that would go in my partner's truck."

"Then where did you go?"

"If we got another removal we would go to that, or we would go back to the office." [X source]

10:20:37 AM ET "What did you do next?"

"We began processing the body. We took photos of how they came into the body, we document everything on the property sheet into a computer system, we remove everything that is documented, then we do height/weight and fingerprints."

"Do you remove clothing?"

"Yes." [X source]

10:22:01 AM ET "What about if there's a ligature?"

"That stays in tact."

"Did you take photos of the decent in this case?"

"My partner Chris did that and he bagged the clothing."

"Were you present for that?"

"Yes."

"How were you told to process this body?"

"Standard processing."

"Did you do any xrays?"

"No."

"What was your last task with the case of Sandra Birchmore?"

"Processing at the office after removal."

"What did you do with the bagged clothing?"

"My partner handled it, but it stays in the body bag with the decent." [X source]

10:22:49 AM ET "So, let me ask you this, you processed the body and returned it to the bag, where does the clothing bag go next?"

"It stays with the decedent."

"Where does the decent stay?"

"They get placed into our cooler."

"What about personal property like a watch?"

"It goes into an envelope and then into our secure evidence locker." [X source]

10:23:04 AM ET "Who gets the run and police reports?"

"I don't know, but someone in our office." [X source]

10:24:07 AM ET "You testified you were present when the clothing was cut off Sandra Birchmore's body, what is that process?"

"We do not cut, we take the clothing items off. Over the head and arms for a t shirt."

"Was the t shirt pulled over the ligature of her neck?"

"I can't say exactly, I didn't remove the clothing." [X source]

10:24:39 AM ET "Were you present when that happened?"

"Yes, I was on the computer."

"You said the clothing was removed from the body and the ligature was left on her body?"

"Yes."

"And the t shirt was not cut off?"

"Yes." [X source]

10:25:09 AM ET "How was the t shirt removed from her body?"

"If it was not cut off, it would have have gone over her head."

"Thank you so much."

"Cross?" [X source]

Caitlin Bulger — Cross-Examination

10:26:18 AM ET "Good morning, Ms. Bulger, you said you had on the job training at the OCME?"

"Yes."

"And one of your primary duties is transferring bodies from the scene to the OCME office?"

"Yes."

"And some of your training involved using PPE?"

"Yes, personal protective equipment."

"Gloves, and masks, and things like that?"

"Yes."

"And you were trained on how to get the body from the scene to the OCME in Boston, on Albany street?"

"Yes, 720 Albany Street." [X source]

10:27:18 AM ET "You're one of the first people to interact with a body?"

"Yes."

"And you are the first step in the process of the OCME's evulation of a body?"

"Yes." [X source]

10:28:22 AM ET "And after you collect bodies, other things happen during the process at the OCME after you are done processing the bodies?"

"Yes." [X source]

10:29:36 AM ET "You said you collected Ms. Birchmore's body and took it back to the OCME?"

"Yes."

"And you've been part of other autopsies?"

"Yes."

"And sometimes a body may be destined for process or an autopsy?"

"Yes."

"And because you are one of the first people who interacts with a body, you know it's important to be careful in your work?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Do you pay attention when you do your job and try to be careful?

"Yes." [X source]

10:30:14 AM ET "Why are you careful?"

"So we can best preserve the body for the doctor."

"And part of that is being careful to not cause any other injuries?"

"Yes."

"So, for example, you wouldn't hit a decedent in the throat?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained!" [X source]

10:32:31 AM ET "You were inside Ms. Birchmore's apartment, right?"

"Yes."

"Can we pull up exhibit 27. Is this a picture inside of Sandra's apartment?"

"Yes." [X source]

10:33:20 AM ET "Do you remember seeing an ultra sound on the fridge?"

"I do not."

"Who is the person standing next to the fridge?"

"That is trooper Matt Dune."

"That is trooper Matt Dunne next to the fridge?"

"Matt Dunne." [X source]

10:35:21 AM ET "Ms. Bulger, when you go to a scene your primary job is to collect the body?"

"Yes."

"And you often see local and state police?"

"Yes."

"And you've gone to many scenes with state police investigators?"

"Yes.

"And they are the ones who you have seen marking evidence and items of interest?"

"Yes."

"And have you seen Massachusetts State Troopers seizing evidence?"

"Yes."

"In fact, sometimes they bring a photographer as well, right?"

"Correct."

"And you don't take [photos of the scene when you're there to retrieve a body?"

"No." [X source]

10:37:00 AM ET "Now, Ms. Bulger, I want to focus your attention on that pendent on the right side of Ms. Birchmore's body. Exhibit 37. Did you see that pendent on Ms. Birchmore's body on Feb 1, 2021?"

"I did not."

"Because you would have taken it with you if you saw it?"

"Yes, if it was physically on the decent, it would be taken into our custody."

"So you didn't notice it there and so you didn't take it into your custody."

"Correct."

Long pause for effect.

Someone altered that crime scene. [X source]

10:38:05 AM ET "After a body is collected, you don't interview witnesses?"

"No."

"And you don't review camera footage?"

"No."

"And you don't determine who was the last person to see the decent alive?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"That is what other people then do?"

"Yes."

"That is what the state police does?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"That is what law enforcement does?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

Long pause. [X source]

10:38:40 AM ET "Do you, at some point, during the process of an autopsy clean the body?"

"Yes, during exam."

"And an exam is around the time of autopsy?"

"Yes."

"Your honor may I have a moment."

"You may." [X source]

10:41:05 AM ET "One more question, your honor...regarding the pendent on Ms. Birchmore's chest, you said you didn't see the pendent, right?"

"Yes."

"You also didn't see the broken chain, right?"

"Yes, I didn't see it."

"And you would have taken them if you saw them, right?"

"Yes."

"And that would have been part of your process, to take them back to the OCME?"

"Yes."

"You mentioned that the body, the washing as part of the exam, if the exam occurs around Feb 5th, then something done weeks after that, the body would be washed?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"So, if a decedent's fingernails are clipped after an exam, the body has already been washed?"

"Objection."

"Sustained." [X source]

Caitlin Bulger — Redirect and Conclusion

10:42:16 AM ET "No further questions, your honor."

"Redirect?"

"Briefly your honor, can I do it from here?"

"Yes."

"Exhibit 57 just for the witness. Can we zoom in on Ms. Birchmore's neck? Ms. Bulger is there a chain under the ligature?"

"It appears so."

"Would you ever remove something under a ligature like a chain?"

"No."

"Nothing further."

"Ms. Bulger you may step down." [X source]

10:42:21 AM ET Sidebah! [X source]

Jury Dismissal and Scheduling

10:46:40 AM ET "Jurors we are going to let you go for the day due to scheduling."

Sneeze.

"Bless you."

"Tomorrow, we will go until 1PM. I expect a 1PM dismissal. I will give you a further update about next week, I think Monday will be a full day. We will give you a further update. Based on my own estimation, we are on target for our schedule. We will excuse you for the day. As always, please don't talk to anyone about anything related to this case. Don't do any research or watch or listen to anything about this case and keep an open mind. We will see you tomorrow." [X source]

10:51:42 AM ET "Everyone can be seated. Counsel, just talk to me about tomorrow in terms of the witness that is on for tomorrow and will take us through the end of our half day until 1PM. Monday counsel who is on deck?

"Dr. Heather Garvin, it is a lengthy report. Then Mr. Rawlston, the chief medical examiner in Kentucky, he is a fact witness though, so he won't be as lengthy. Also we are waiting to hear from the Marshall's service that his flight arrangements are made. We are requesting Monday. That Doctor Alicia McCarthy. We may, if we anticipater a full day, move another witness to Monday and that would be Daniel Loper. Tuesday will Be. Christensen, then our DNA expert Dr. Noradine who will likely a bit lengthy, then Dr. Sundell."

"Is there a report from Dr. Sundell?"

"No report, she is a short fact witness."

"So that's Tuesday? A full day?"

"Yes, given the experts, particularly the DNA expert."

"And Wednesday?"

"Dr/. Thomas Andre and if over the course of the weekend we look at our lineup there may be some additional fact witnesses brought in."

"Would that be Wednesday?"

"Potentially, or maybe Monday. If we move Mr. Loper though, maybe Tuesday or Wednesday. We may need to make that call over the weekend."

"Okay, so I guess counsel I have told them about Monday, it sounds like full days Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. [X source]

10:52:11 AM ET "Counsel, please get additional instructions to me tomorrow. We will do the charge conference Monday or Tuesday." [X source]

Post-Court Updates — Not Continuous Courtroom Coverage

9:58:32 AM ET William Killroy leaves court after bombshell revelation that Sandra Birchmore's father attempted to sell her into sex slavery.

Mr. Killroy had no commet.

The Matthew Farwell trial continues. https://t.co/CO8XL9YUNA [X source]

12:16:44 PM ET @lyb2972 Yes we are done for the day! The defense was supposed to until 1pm, but we finished at 10:45am! [X source]

Additional Source Check — Caitlyn Bulger (supplemental notes)

SOURCE / ATTRIBUTION: Three additional images of contemporaneous courtroom notes supplied by the archive editor. Their author and original posting URL have not yet been established. The material below is not substituted for Grant's existing contemporaneous account.

The notes identify Bulger as an OCME technician/medical examiner assistant dispatched to Canton on February 4, 2021, with a partner named Chris Adams. They report her account that she was told this was a standard

suspected-suicide removal and that police were already at the scene. These are the notes' characterizations, not independent findings about manner of death.

The notes record Bulger saying that the ligature was slid off the doorknob rather than cut, that the body was placed into a bag and then on a stretcher, and that the ligature remained with the body. They also describe the clothing and personal-property processing, and her recollection that she did not notice a pendant or chain.

During cross-examination, the notes distinguish evidence physically attached to the decedent from objects elsewhere in the apartment. They report Bulger's explanation that items physically on the body would have been taken into OCME custody, and that she did not remember seeing the pendant or chain.

On redirect, the notes say Bulger acknowledged that a chain was visible underneath the ligature in a photograph. This corroborates the subject of Grant's 10:42 AM entry; it does not establish when or by whom any chain was removed.

The additional notes place a sidebar after Bulger's testimony and report the jury being sent home around 10:45 AM, consistent with Grant's contemporaneous end-of-session reporting. A list of expected future witnesses appears in the notes; because it is prospective, it is not treated as proof they ultimately testified.

Research flag, not testimony: The thyroid bone/neck specimen questions raise preservation and chain-of-custody questions, but these notes alone do not establish repeated physical manipulation, contamination, or alteration of the specimen.

Editorial Notes

[1] Supplemental Reporting: Material under this heading is reconstructed from identified contemporaneous courtroom reporting or notes by a source other than Grant Smith Ellis.

Source: October 29, 2026 time-bounded author-search JSONL. Displayed times are X post times converted to Eastern Time, not verified event times.

Dr. Hull's testimony was missed by Grant Smith Ellis; the separate supplemental notes partially document it. The notes do not constitute a complete verbatim examination.

The jury was dismissed at approximately 10:46 AM ET; scheduling remarks followed through 10:52 AM.

Unrelated retweets, replies, fundraising posts, and casual commentary are excluded from the courtroom chronology.

The archive is not affiliated with the reporting source and is not a certified transcript.