FBI Special Agent Heidi Kelsch

October 20, 2026 | Government witness | Continued cross, redirect and recross

Supplemental Reporting[1]

Notes by Kristina Rex

Continued cross-examination

Questioning about Exhibit 238 established, according to the notes, that the forensic examination report did not contain every one of Sandra's web searches.

The notes list January 18–19, 2021 searches about spotting, bleeding, ultrasound, early miscarriage, fetal heartbeat, and baby showers, including repeated overnight searches. They also note a February 1 search for "cramping at 9 weeks."

Kelsch said there was no way to establish that an individual actually viewed a cached image unless there was evidence of interaction. The notes refer to approximately 965 cached images on February 1, including two suicide-related images raised on cross. She could not say whether Sandra had actually seen those two images.

Kelsch said she joined the case in March 2024. The notes report her explanation that specialists warned an unknown Apple Watch passcode could damage data integrity, that the watch was kept in an evidence-control room, and that Jessica Hyde performed the extraction.

The notes discuss unavailable surveillance and Ring video, with an explanation that substantial time elapsed before requests were made.

Redirect

The government returned to the Apple Watch, including consultations with Jessica Hyde, FBI personnel and Apple.

Redirect revisited defense characterization of some texts as fantasy and presented exchanges concerning restraint, fear, pain, and power. The notes include a January 29, 2020 exchange in which Sandra reportedly described being in tears after an encounter.

Kelsch said she did not recall observing texts in which Sandra reported that Farwell explicitly said he would kill her. She described many messages in which Farwell did not want to discuss subjects in writing and preferred speaking in person.

The government returned to the Instagram cache. Kelsch again said she could not establish whether Sandra saw the two suicide-related images merely because they were cached.

Recross

The defense asked whether other digital artifacts might help interpret cached images; Kelsch said they could.

Kelsch's testimony ended shortly before the 10:58 a.m. break, after which Dr. Priyanka Venkataraman testified.

Source posts

- Kristina Rex — October 20 morning notes, thread 1
- Kristina Rex — October 20 morning notes, thread 2
- Kristina Rex — October 20 morning notes, thread 3

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