Jessica Katz

October 20, 2026 | Government witness | Direct and cross-examination

Supplemental Reporting[1]

Notes by Kristina Rex

Direct examination

Katz, an attorney, said referrals came through several channels, including local nonprofits. She provided information and advice to people seeking services. She was no longer practicing family law and could not personally take Sandra's case.

Katz said she and Sandra first connected in March 2020 and communicated by telephone and text, never meeting in person. Sandra contacted her again in November; they discussed her pregnancy and related legal questions in January 2021.

Sandra said the father was married and had children. She asked about her rights, custody, visitation, and whether the father's name would appear on the birth certificate. Katz explained that Sandra did not need to rush decisions and sent an email referring her to attorneys who could represent her.

The notes record Katz describing Sandra as "optimistic," "happy," and positive about the father's prospective involvement with the child.

The jury heard two messages attributed to Sandra. The notes summarize one as a brief request to call back and the other as an apologetic follow-up asking whether Katz had received the earlier messages.

Cross-examination

Katz said she could not recall the precise timeframe but knew Sandra was newly pregnant. She confirmed Sandra sounded hopeful about the father's relationship with the child.

Katz testified that Sandra did not understand visitation schedules would be arranged after birth; she had thought arrangements could be worked out during pregnancy.

When asked whether Sandra had called to report something concerning to Katz in her role as an attorney, the notes record a pause and a negative answer.

No redirect or recross appears in the recovered notes; the next section begins Mackenzie Palma's testimony.

Source posts

- Kristina Rex — October 20 afternoon notes, thread 1
- Kristina Rex — October 20 afternoon notes, thread 2

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