Joseph Harris

October 28, 2026 | Defense witness #1 | Direct, cross, redirect and recross

Supplemental Reporting[1]

Notes by @pennylikeacoin · posted by Kristina Rex

Direct examination

Harris identified himself as a Massasoit Community College vice president responsible for student services and enrollment, and said he had previously been an academic coordinator in 2017–2018. He described CARE reports as a way to document student concerns outside strictly academic matters.

His November 2017 report concerned Sandra, who worked as a peer tutor and sought guaranteed hours for spring 2018. Harris said he could not guarantee hours; she left and returned. The report said she needed work to leave her home and had told him she tried to kill herself over the preceding weekend.

Harris said he did not independently recall the specific encounter and relied on his written report.

Cross-examination

Cross established that the report concerned 2017, not 2021 or February 1, 2021. Harris agreed Sandra wanted enough money to move out, that he could not guarantee hours at first, and that she returned a few minutes later.

The report did not specify what Sandra said she had done during the preceding weekend. Harris could not recall additional details and said he had no independent recollection of the encounter.

Redirect and recross

On redirect, the defense returned to why Harris made the CARE report and whether Sandra's reported statement constituted an emergency. The notes record prosecution objections and Harris's continuing inability to recall the details independently. The note-taker described Harris as appearing nervous.

On recross, Harris said the college had a suicide protocol, though he did not remember the specific protocol then in effect. He thought a statement about an earlier attempt would be treated as past suicidal behavior and documented on a form. He confirmed campus police were not called at the time.

Amelia Stern reported that Harris's testimony concluded at 12:32 p.m.

Source posts

- @pennylikeacoin notes posted by Kristina Rex
- Amelia Stern — testimony concluded at 12:32 p.m.
- Michele McPhee — CARE report/recollection

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