

On July 8, federal prosecutors charged financier Jeffrey Epstein with one count of sex trafficking of a minor and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Per the indictment, “over the course of many years, Jeffrey Epstein, the defendant, sexually exploited and abused dozens of minor girls at his homes in Manhattan, New York, and Palm Beach, Florida among other locations.”

- **Who was Jeffrey Epstein?**

- Epstein started his career in New York City as a math teacher at the elite Dalton School, but in the 1970s, he went to work at the investment bank Bear Stearns before founding his own firm, J. Epstein and Co. in 1982.
- While Epstein appeared to be wealthy, the source of his money was obscure. He has been widely called a billionaire, but Forbes disputed that claim, saying that he was more likely worth a fraction of that.
  - [Forbes wrote in 2010](#), “The source of his wealth - a money management firm in the US Virgin Islands - generates no public records, nor has his client list ever been released.”
  - Epstein’s former clients include Leslie Wexner, the billionaire founder of Victoria’s Secret; Epstein served as a trustee of The Wexner Foundation. Wexner reportedly bought Epstein a \$13 million New York apartment.
- [In a 2002 New York magazine profile](#), Epstein was described by even those closest to him as “mysterious.” with many of the sources of his immense wealth remaining largely unknown and with one acquaintance even comparing him to the Wizard of Oz, implying that there might be less behind the curtain than appearances would otherwise suggest.
  - “Epstein is said to run \$15 billion for wealthy clients, yet aside from Limited founder Leslie Wexner, his client list is a closely held secret. A former Dalton math teacher, he maintains a peripatetic salon of brilliant scientists yet possesses no bachelor’s degree. For more than ten years, he’s been linked to Manhattan-London society figure Ghislaine Maxwell, daughter of the mysterious deceased media titan Robert Maxwell, yet he lives the life of a bachelor, logging 600 hours a year in his various planes as he scours the world for investment opportunities. He owns what is said to be Manhattan’s largest private house yet runs his business from a 100-acre private island in St. Thomas. Says another prominent Wall Streeter: ‘He is this mysterious, Gatsbyesque figure. He likes people to think that he is very rich, and he cultivates this air of aloofness. The whole thing is weird.’”
- Epstein also had a foundation, The Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation, which is best known for donating \$6.5 million to Harvard University for the establishment of a mathematical biology and evolutionary dynamics program.
- [According to The New York Times](#), Epstein “hoped to seed the human race with his DNA by impregnating women at his vast New Mexico ranch”

- Epstein’s vision reflected his long standing fascination with transhumanism: the science of improving the human population through technologies like genetic engineering and artificial intelligence.
    - Interviews with more than a dozen of his acquaintances, as well as public documents show that he insinuated himself into an elite scientific community, thus allowing him to pursue his interests in eugenics and other fringe fields like cryonics.
      - Epstein told one adherent of transhumanism the he wanted his head and penis to be frozen.
    - One scientist said that Epstein’s goal was to have 20 women at a time impregnated at his ranch in New Mexico.
  - Epstein was known to associate with politicians on both sides of the aisle, including Bill Clinton and Donald Trump, numerous celebrities, and other people in the public eye, including Prince Andrew.
    - He gains some measure of fame in the early 2000s for flying Bill Clinton, Kevin Spacey, and Chris Tucker to Africa to tour AIDS prevention and treatment project sites.
      - Also on these flights was a woman named Chauntae Davis who was also listed along with 27 other women under “Massage - California” in Epstein’s [“little black book”](#).
      - Epstein kept lists of massage girls in various locales, a total of 160 names around the world.
    - Bill Clinton would go on to fly multiple times on Epstein’s private plane between 2002 and 2003 [according to flight logs](#).
    - Donald Trump once said of Epstein, “I’ve known Jeff for fifteen years. Terrific guy. He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.”
- **The 2008 case against Jeffery Epstein**
  - In 2008, Epstein pleaded guilty to a felony charge of solicitation of prostitution involving a minor. He was accused of sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, bringing them to his home for massages during which he masturbated or had intercourse with them. Epstein was sentenced to 18 months in county jail; he served 13, and was granted work release, which allowed him to commute to an office outside the jail six days a week. He also registered as a sex offender.
    - Epstein was able to sign a deal with the then US attorney Alexander Acosta and former Secretary of Labor under President Donald Trump.
      - The FBI had prepared a 53-page sex crimes indictment in 2007 that could have sent him to prison for life, according to the Miami Herald.
      - Part of the deal he cut granted work release to go to an office for 12 hours, six days a week, despite the fact that the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Department prohibited work release for sex offenders.

- The deal was a non-prosecution agreement and it granted immunity to any potential co-conspirators. The deal was also kept secret from the victims.
  - This cases started in 2005 after a woman reported to Florida police that a wealthy man had molested her stepdaughter. The tip led Palm Beach detectives to investigate, and they identified multiple girls who said Epstein had abused them. The case was eventually referred to the FBI.
  - According to court and police records reviewed by Julie Brown of the Miami Herald, Epstein routinely had underaged girls brought to his Palm Beach home, where he paid them to give him massages. During the massages, he often subjected the girls to sexual abuse - asking them to touch him while he masturbated, touching them himself, and sometimes having intercourse with them. Epstein would then offer them money to find more girls for him.
    - According to Joseph Recarey, the lead Palm Beach detective on the case, Epstein was essentially operating a sexual pyramid scheme.
  - Julie Brown identified about 80 women who say they were molested or otherwise sexually abused by Epstein, and some accounts suggest the total number is even higher.
- **The 2019 federal case against Jeffrey Epstein**
  - Epstein was first arrested at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey on July 6, after arriving back in the US from France.
    - He was charged by federal prosecutors the following Monday in which he plead not guilty. On July 18, Epstein was denied bail. He had previously said he was willing to post \$100 million.
  - [Epstein was charged with sex trafficking](#), in connection with allegations that he recruited young girls for abuse at his homes in New York and Palm Beach.
    - Epstein said that any encounters he had with his accusers were consensual, and that he believed they were 18 at the time. The indictment, however, states that Epstein knew some of the girls were underage because they “expressly told him their age.”
    - In July, Jennifer Araoz said in an interview with Today that Epstein had forcibly raped her in 2002, when she was about 15 years old.
  - The indictment also states that Epstein “worked and conspired with others, including employees and associates who facilitated his conduct by, among other things, contacting victims and scheduling their sexual encounters with Epstein.”
    - This new case in New York looked like it could potentially lead to charges against some of those “associates”.
      - David Boise, a lawyer for some of Epstein’s accusers said, “We hope that the prosecutors will not stop with Mr. Epstein because there were many other people who participated with him and made the sex trafficking possible.”

- After his arrest, authorities searched Epstein's New York City home where they found a "pile of cash, diamonds, and a passport from a foreign country with a picture of [Epstein] under another name" in a safe. The passport showed Epstein's residence as Saudi Arabia.
- On Friday, July 9, 2,000 pages of previously sealed legal documents were released by a federal appeals court. The documents included depositions, police incident reports, photographs, receipts, and flight logs.
  - The documents were filed as part of a defamation lawsuit in federal court that Virginia Giuffre brought in 2015 against Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's longtime companion and confidant.
    - In a sworn deposition, Ms. Giuffre said she first met Ghislaine Maxwell, the daughter of the British publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, and Jeffrey Epstein in 2000 when she was 16. At the time Giuffre was working as an attendant at the spa at Mar-a-Lago resort.
    - She said she was sitting outside the locker room, reading a book on massage therapy, when Maxwell approached her. She said she knew someone who was looking for a traveling masseuse.
      - "If the guy likes you, then, you know, it will work out for you. You'll travel. You'll make good money. You'll be educated," Giuffre recalled Maxwell telling her.
    - Giuffre took the job and Maxwell trained her on how to give erotic massages, which she soon began providing to Epstein at his home in Palm Beach. She was also being flown on Epstein's jet to perform sexual services on Epstein's acquaintances.
      - "The word 'massage' became code for 'sex'" she said on the 2016 deposition. "My whole life revolved around just pleasing these men and keeping Ghislaine and Jeffrey happy. Their whole entire lives revolved around sex. They call massages sex. They call modeling sex."
- **Epstein died by apparent suicide in his cell on August 10**
  - The official statement regarding his death from the Federal Bureau of Prisons:
    - "On Saturday, August 10, 2019, at approximately 6:30 am, inmate Jeffrey Edward Epstein was found unresponsive in his cell in the Special Housing Unit from an apparent suicide at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in New York, New York. Life-saving measures were initiated immediately by responding staff. Staff requested emergency medical services (EMS) and life-saving efforts continued. Mr. Epstein was transported by EMS to a local hospital for treatment of life-threatening injuries, and subsequently pronounced dead by hospital staff. The FBI is investigating the incident."
  - Last month, after being denied bail, Epstein was found unconscious in his jail cell with marks on his neck. He was placed on suicide watch after the incident and

received a daily psychiatric evaluation. He was removed from suicide watch on July 29 and returned to the special housing unit.

- The US attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey S. Berman, said in a statement that the investigation into Epstein's misconduct would continue, pointing specifically to the conspiracy charge, which suggested Epstein was assisted by others who helped facilitate his illegal acts.
- Epstein was supposed to have been checked by the two guards in the protective housing unit every 30 minutes, but that procedure was not followed that night, a law enforcement official with knowledge of his detention said. He hadn't been checked on for several hours.
  - Because of his previous potential suicide attempt, Epstein was supposed to have had another inmate in his cell, officials said. However, the jail had recently transferred his cellmate and allowed Epstein to be housed alone, a decision that also violated the jail's procedures.
  - It has been reported that the jail was short staffed and the guards on duty were working overtime. One of the new details provided by people familiar with the MCC was that one of Epstein's guards the night he died wasn't a regular correctional officer.
    - [A New York Times investigation](#) published last year detailed this practice, under which federal prisons are so strapped for correctional officers that they regularly compel teachers, nurses, secretaries and other support staff members to step in.
- Bob Hood, a former senior official at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which runs the MCC, told the *Times*, "The Bureau of Prisons dropped the ball. Period."
- **Conspiracies around Epstein's death**
  - Many rumors have centred on what politicians may have known about Epstein's alleged crimes and whether some may have wanted him dead. The hashtag #EpsteinMurder trended worldwide on Saturday. Memes suggesting everything from a faked suicide to an orchestrated hit-job spread throughout social media.
    - Joe Scarborough tweeted, "A guy had information that would have destroyed rich and powerful men's lives ends up dead in his jail cell. How predictably... Russian."
    - New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said it was "way too convenient" that Epstein could no longer incriminate others. "What a lot of us want to know is, what did he know? How many other millionaires and billionaires were part of the illegal activities that he was engaged in?" he told reporters.
  - On Saturday, Donald Trump retweeted a video from a conservative comedian, Terrence Williams, in which Williams suggested that Bill and Hillary Clinton were responsible for Epstein's death. Lynne Patton, an official at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, also posted a headline about Epstein's death along with the word "Hillary'd!!" and the hashtag "#VinceFosterPartTwo".
    - Within hours of Epstein's death, #ClintonBodyCount was trending. The competing #TrumpBodyCount was also trending.

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