



Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein developed a social and professional relationship that began in the late 1980s and lasted until the early 2000s, during which time they frequently socialized, attended parties together, and visited each other's properties, including Mar-a-Lago. While Trump has downplayed the relationship and claimed to have cut ties around 2004, Epstein considered himself a close friend to Trump, and the two reportedly bonded over shared social circles and interests.

Key Aspects of the Relationship-below left to right Trump, Melina Trump, Epstein and



- **Socializing:** Throughout the 1990s, the two were often photographed together at high-profile events, such as the Victoria's Secret "Angels" party and parties at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort.
- **Private Jet Travel:** Flight logs from the mid-1990s confirm that Trump flew on Epstein's private jet at least seven times.
- **"Terrific Guy" Quote:** In a 2002 *New York Magazine* profile, Trump stated, "I've known Jeff for 15 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".
- **Falling Out:** Trump and Epstein had a falling out in the mid-2000s, with Trump alleging he banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago in 2007 for harassing a member's teenage daughter, or earlier for trying to "steal" his employees.
- **Denial of Criminal Knowledge:** Following Epstein's 2019 arrest on sex trafficking charges, Trump stated, "I had a falling out with him a long time ago. I don't think I've spoken to him for 15 years," and claimed he had no knowledge of Epstein's illegal activities.

PBS +4

Publicly Available Evidence

- **Photos and Video:** Numerous photos show the pair at social events between 1992 and 2000. A 1992 video shows them at a Mar-a-Lago party dancing surrounded by cheerleaders.
- **Epstein's "Black Book":** Trump's name and contact information appeared in Epstein's contact list, and he is mentioned in court documents, though not accused of wrongdoing in the 2024 releases.
- **Allegations:** While some victims have reported seeing Trump at social events at Epstein's properties, no criminal wrongdoing has been established against Trump in connection to Epstein's crimes.

Latest Developments (2025-2026)

- **2003 Birthday Letter:** Documents released in 2025 included a 2003 birthday letter allegedly sent by Trump to Epstein, which contained a drawing and the

message: "Happy Birthday – and may every day be another wonderful secret."
Trump denied writing or signing the letter.

- **Administration Scrutiny:** During his second term, the Trump administration faced pressure regarding the release of Epstein-related files, with Democrats and media noting that Trump's name appears frequently in them.
- **Melania Trump Statement (April 2026):** First Lady Melania Trump denied being friends with Epstein, saying, "I've never been friends with Epstein," and stated that her email to Ghislaine Maxwell was "casual correspondence" and that she had no knowledge of his crimes.

EPSTEIN PRIVATE ISLAND TRUMP, THE CLINTONS, THE BUSHES, ET AL VISITED

Jeffrey Epstein owned two private islands in the U.S. Virgin Islands—[Little St. James](#) and [Great St. James](#)—which served as a hub for sex trafficking and sexual abuse of underage girls from 1998 until at least 2018. The islands featured a private compound with a mansion, gym, theater, and a distinctive temple-like building. They were sold in 2023 for \$60 million for redevelopment.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/never-before-seen-images-of-epsteins-private-island-released>

Youtube +4

Key Details About the Islands:

- **Location:** Situated in the Caribbean, part of the U.S. Virgin Islands archipelago, located over a mile from St. Thomas.
- **The Compound:** Little St. James was developed with a large main house, several staff residences, a swimming pool, a private library, a tiki hut, and a controversial striped "temple" structure

- **Activities:** Investigators believe the islands were designed to isolate victims and facilitate trafficking. Reports include victims being abused and a dentist's chair being located in a room with dolls and masks.
- **Sale and Future:** Following Epstein's death and a 2022 legal settlement, the islands were bought by billionaire investor Stephen Deckoff in 2023. He has announced plans to turn the property into a luxury 25-room resort.
- **Investigation:** In December 2025, the House Oversight Committee released images of the island to aid in ongoing investigations, highlighting the infrastructure rather than people.

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By —

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Never-before-seen images of Epstein's private island released

Nation Dec 3, 2025 11:51 AM EDT

Never-before-seen images and video footage of convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's private island were released Wednesday morning.

The images shared by the House Oversight Committee – 10 in total – are from 2020 and were taken by U.S. Virgin Island authorities. Epstein owned Little St. James and Great St. James, two private islands in the U.S. Virgin Island archipelago. There are no people pictured in the images.



A bedroom located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.

The committee also released video footage showing a walkthrough of his property.

A number of Epstein survivors allege they were trafficked to Little St. James where they were exploited by the financier and his associates.

"These new images are a disturbing look into the world of Jeffrey Epstein and his island," Rep. Robert Garcia, Democratic ranking member on the House Oversight Committee, said in a press release. "We are releasing these photos and videos to ensure public transparency in our investigation and to help piece together the full picture of Epstein's horrific crimes. We won't stop fighting until we deliver justice for the survivors."

"It's time for President Trump to release all the files, now," Garcia said.



A living space located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.



A bathroom located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.



An room containing a dentist's chair located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.

Epstein's connections to the island territory have come under renewed scrutiny. A cache of correspondence released last month revealed Epstein had texted with U.S. Virgin Island Delegate Stacey Plaskett in February 2019 during a congressional hearing. In response, Plaskett faced a censure vote in the House, which broke 209-214 in her favor. She defended herself from wrongdoing, saying, "I know how to question individuals. I know how to seek information. I have sought information from confidential informants, from murderers, from other individuals because I want the truth."

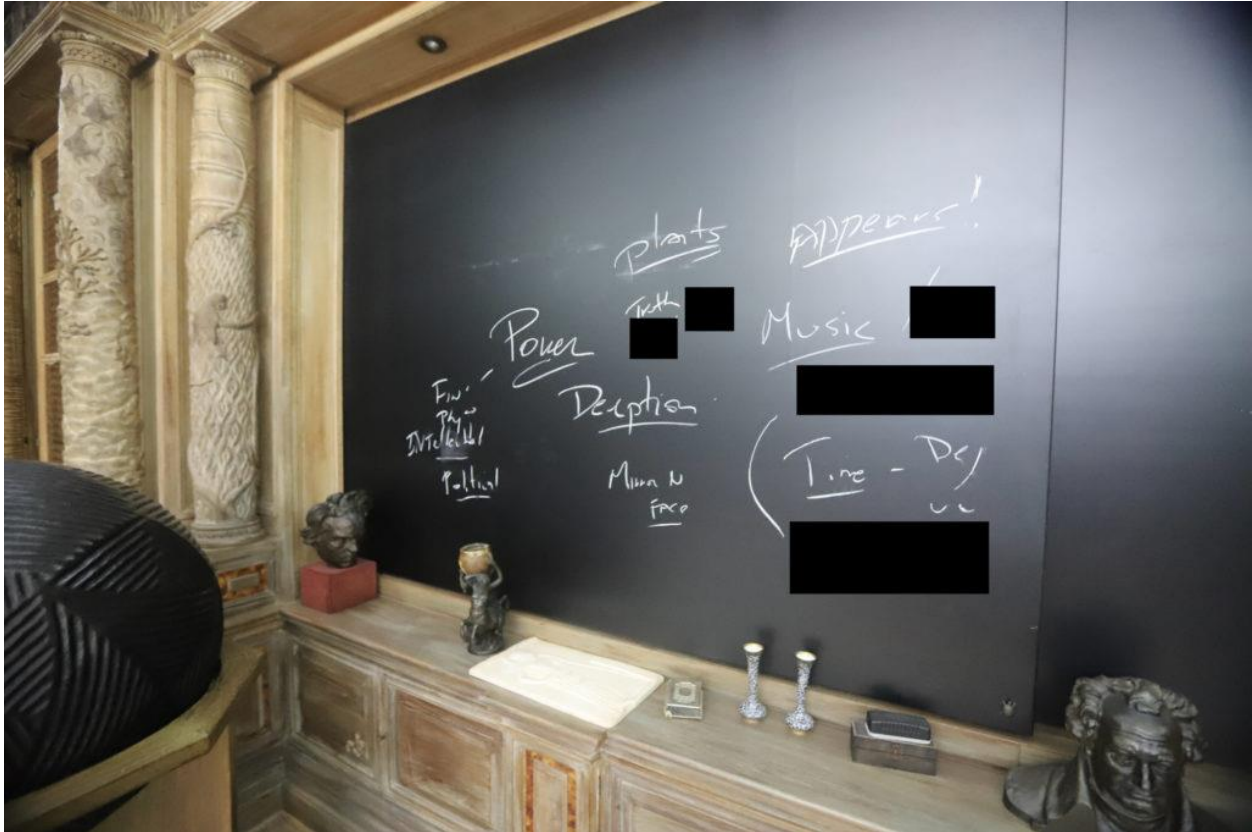
WATCH: What comes next after Congress votes to release the Epstein files



A telephone with various speed-dial notes located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.



A bedroom located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.



A view of a blackboard located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.

The release of the new images comes in response to a letter sent by the House Oversight Committee in mid-November. Chairman James Comer asked Virgin Island Attorney General Gordon C. Rhea for "all documents and communications" related to the federal or local criminal investigations of Jeffrey Epstein or Ghislaine Maxwell in order to "further the Committee's investigation and potential legislative solutions." Comer wrote that some legislative solutions may include ways to combat sex-trafficking and reform the use of non-prosecution agreements in sex-crime investigations.

The press release also said that the committee had received records from J.P. Morgan and Deutsche Bank, which they intend to release publicly in the coming days.

Epstein died of apparent suicide while awaiting trial in 2019, before the newly released images were taken. In 2022, the attorney general of the U.S. Virgin

Islands announced a civil settlement of more than \$150 million with Epstein's estate and other co-defendants, related to sex trafficking, child exploitation and fraud claims filed in 2020.



An exterior view located on a private island formerly owned by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is pictured in a photo released by the House Oversight Committee.



OBAMA(WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL) ASSOCIATION

Jeffrey Epstein. However, the 2026 release of documents related to the Epstein case brought scrutiny to associates within the Obama administration.



AFP Fact Check

Key Connections and Findings:

- **Kathryn Ruemmler (Former White House Counsel):** Documents unsealed in January 2026 revealed that Kathryn Ruemmler, who served as White House Counsel during the Obama administration, had extensive contact with Epstein, including over 100 exchanges and 50 scheduled meetings.
 - Epstein referred to her as his "great defender".

- She allegedly provided informal legal advice, helped draft media responses regarding sex abuse allegations, and was involved in advising on responses to investigations.
- Ruemmler stated she was one of many attorneys Epstein consulted and denied defending him
- <https://www.wral.com/story/fact-check-did-jeffrey-epstein-get-a-sweetheart-plea-deal-from-the-obama-administration/22120008/>

• OBAMA ASSOCIATION

- **Former Obama Counsel Advised Epstein:** Kathy Ruemmler, who served as White House Counsel during the Obama administration and later became a top lawyer at Goldman Sachs, was identified in Jan. 2026 court filings as a confidante and informal advisor to Jeffrey Epstein.

DONALD TRUMP(JAMES D. VANCE), CLINTON, BUSH, OBAMA[AND ALL THOSE “HIGH RANKING” PERSONNEL OPERATING UNDER THEIR DIRECTION] ARE ASSOCIATES OF EPSTEIN(ASSOCIATED-IN-FACT)AS DEFINED IN RICO

(Under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, an "associate" is defined as any individual or entity connected to a criminal enterprise who participates, directly or indirectly, in conducting its affairs through a pattern of racketeering. This includes employees, business partners, or members of informal groups ([association-in-fact](#)).

DONALD TRUMP(JAMES D. VANCE), CLINTON, BUSH, OBAMA[AND ALL

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**AND
CONSTITUTE
HARBORING
AND HIRING
ILLEGAL**

**IMMIGRATES
IN VIOLATION
OF 8 USC
SECTION
1324**

**HARBORING
AND HIRING**

HUNDREDS
AND
THOUSANDS
OF ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATES
FOR SEX (SEX
TRAFFICING)

Jeffrey Epstein exploited various immigration mechanisms, such as [student visas](#), to facilitate his sex trafficking enterprise.

Facebook

- **Exploitation of Visas:** Epstein and his accomplices reportedly manipulated university admissions(USED **Epstein used university admissions to traffic victims**) to obtain student visas for young women, which were then used to bring them into the United States for the purpose of trafficking.
- **Fraudulent Travel Documents:** During a 2019 raid of his Manhattan townhouse, federal agents discovered a fraudulent Austrian passport under the alias "Marius Robert Fortelni," listing a residence in Saudi Arabia.
- **Human Trafficking Network:** Prosecutors detailed how Epstein's network spanned from [Florida](#) and New York to the [U.S. Virgin Islands](#), often involving young women lured with payments and promises of career opportunities.

UNDER RICO

- **Relationship to Enterprise:** An associate can be part of a legitimate legal entity (corporation, partnership) or an illegal association-in-fact, such as a street gang or loose criminal organization.
- **Participation Level:** The associate must have some role in managing or directing the enterprise's affairs. They do not need to be a formal leader; they just need to knowingly agree to further the racketeering activity.
- **Knowledge:** Defendants must have some knowledge of the nature of the enterprise.
- **Association-in-Fact:** An association does not require a formal name, regular meetings, dues, or established rules.

RICO allows for the prosecution of individuals who do not personally commit a crime but are part of the criminal association (e.g., conspiracy to commit acts)