

FBI: Sex offender Epstein provided info in plea deal; Memo released 10 years after raises questions about handling of case. Palm Beach Post (Florida) May 31, 2018 Thursday

Epstein's victims challenge the plea deal. "I don't think he ever told the truth," the person said.

A lawsuit Edwards filed against the federal government, claiming **prosecutors violated** the Victims Rights Act by not notifying **Epstein's** victims of the pending plea deal, is still pending in U.S. District Court. Also, awaiting trial in Palm Beach County Circuit Court is a malicious **prosecution** lawsuit Edwards filed against **Epstein**. Edwards claims the billionaire filed a frivolous lawsuit to punish Edwards for representing a handful of **Epstein's** young victims.

West Palm Beach attorney Jack Goldberger, who was on Epstein's potent defense team, said he was "unable to respond" to questions about the FBI's memo. Other prominent lawyers who represented Epstein, including New York lawyer Jay Lefkowitz and retired Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, didn't respond to requests for comment.

The one line was part of a brief missive dated Sept. 18, 2008, closing the case: "On 9/11/08, case agent advised writer that **Epstein** is currently being **prosecuted** by the State of Florida and is complying with all conditions of his plea with the State of Florida. **Epstein** has also provided information to the FBI as agreed upon. Case agent advised that no federal **prosecution** will occur in this matter as long as **Epstein** continues to uphold his agreement with the State of Florida. ... Case agent is requested to contact writer in the event this matter moves forward on a federal level."

The memo was one of hundreds of documents, including dozens of copies of newspaper articles about Epstein, that were posted on the FBI's website. The website, www.vault.fbi.gov, serves as the FBI's electronic FOIA library. The heavily redacted documents showed agents traveled to New York City, Sante Fe, N.M., and St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Epstein has homes. But there is little information about who they interviewed or what they learned.

The only witness named in the documents is Alfredo Rodriguez, who was a houseman at **Epstein's** Palm Beach mansion in 2004. That's when **Epstein** regularly paid young women to give him **sexually** charged massages, police said.

Rodriguez was **convicted** of obstruction of justice in 2010 and sentenced to 18 months in **jail** for trying to sell a journal he purloined from **Epstein**. **Prosecutors** said the journal detailed **Epstein's** **sexual** dalliances. Rodriguez, who lived in Kendall, died in 2014.

Those familiar with FBI procedures said the records are administrative files, not investigative ones. Some questioned why the files were posted on the FBI's website. The FBI didn't return a phone call for comment. According to the website, the records were released "in compliance with the National Archives and Records Administration requirements."

And while it's been 10 years since **Epstein** pleaded **guilty** to prostitution charges and settled dozens of lawsuits with young women, **litigation** continues.

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