



7 of 11 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2009 ProQuest Information and Learning  
All Rights Reserved  
ProQuest SuperText  
Copyright 2009 Palm Beach Post  
Palm Beach Daily News

June 25, 2009 Thursday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** A SECTION; Pg. A.1

**LENGTH:** 557 words

**HEADLINE:** JUDGE TO RULE ON SEALED PLEA-DEAL PAPERS TODAY

**BYLINE:** MICHELE DARGAN, MICHELE DARGAN, Daily News Staff Writer

**BODY:**

A circuit judge will decide today whether the public will be privy to the federal government's non-prosecution deal with Jeffrey Epstein, which was sealed when the convicted sex offender pleaded guilty in June 2008 to two felony counts.

Epstein, of Palm Beach, will be released from the Palm Beach County Stockade July 22, after serving less than 13 months of his 18-month sentence for procuring a minor for prostitution and solicitation of prostitution.

Teri Barbera, spokeswoman for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, confirmed his release date Tuesday.

Epstein's projected release date had been Sept. 24, but gain time -- which includes his participation in a work-release program -- moves the date up to July 22, Barbera said.

Epstein, 56, has been in the work-release program since Oct. 10, in which he is allowed out of the stockade six days a week, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., to go to his West Palm Beach office, the Florida Science Foundation, monitored by an ankle bracelet and accompanied by a deputy.

As part of Epstein's state plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office agreed not to prosecute Epstein on federal charges as long as he fulfills all requirements of his sentence and probation. The federal non-prosecution agreement has been under seal in state court.

Epstein's attorney Jack Goldberger filed court papers asking that the documents stay sealed for the following reasons: "to prevent a serious imminent threat to the fair, impartial and orderly administration of justice; to protect a compelling government interest; to avoid substantial injury to innocent third parties and to avoid substantial injury to a party by disclosure of matters protected by a common law and privacy right, not generally inherent in these specific type of proceedings, sought to be closed."

Fort Lauderdale-based attorney Brad Edwards represents three Epstein victims and has asked Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath to unseal the federal agreement to the public. An attorney for The Palm Beach Post also has asked that the records be unsealed.

Edwards and his clients have seen the agreement after a federal judge ruled that they are allowed to see it. But that ruling bars Edwards and anyone else who sees the document from disclosing the terms to anyone else.

Edwards said he wants to use that document "in the deposition of various material witnesses" relative to his cases.

JUDGE TO RULE ON SEALED PLEA-DEAL PAPERS TODAY Palm Beach Daily News June 25, 2009 Thursday

Radaronline.com has reported that Epstein has "secretly been helping the feds unravel a Ponzi scheme" related to the June 2008 indictment of two former managers of Bear Stearns Mortgage Investment Fund.

Epstein's rep, Howard Rubenstein, confirmed last year that Epstein is "Major Investor No. 1" in the indictment, which says he lost about \$57 million.

Goldberger could not be reached for comment.

The Manhattan money manager has been incarcerated since June 30, when he pleaded guilty to the two felony counts. As part of the plea agreement, Epstein must serve one year of house arrest after his release and register as a life-long sex offender.

In addition to the criminal case, there are more than a dozen civil lawsuits -- both state and federal -- pending against Epstein. All contain similar allegations: Epstein, through his employees and assistants, brought minor girls to his Palm Beach home on El Brillo Way for erotic massages and sometimes sex.

-- mdargan@pbdailynews.com

**GRAPHIC:** Caption: Epstein To be released from jail July 22.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 1, 2010