

# *The Government Published Dozens of Nude Photos in the Epstein Files*

The photos, which showed young women or possibly teenagers with their faces visible, were largely removed after The New York Times began notifying the Justice Department.



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Feb. 1, 2026

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The Justice Department published dozens of unredacted nude images on its website, showing young women or possibly teenagers whose photos were contained in files related to the wealthy sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

As part of its required disclosure of the Epstein files, the federal government was tasked with redacting both sexually explicit imagery and information that could be used to identify victims.

But in the process of reviewing more than three million pages uploaded to the Justice Department's website on Friday, The New York Times came across nearly 40 unredacted images that appeared to be part of a personal photo collection, showing both nude bodies and the faces of the people portrayed.

The people in the photos appeared to be young, although it was unclear whether they were minors. Some of the images seemed to show Mr. Epstein's private island, including a beach. Others were taken in bedrooms and other private spaces.

The release of these explicit photos comes after government lawyers have scrambled for weeks to meet the requirements of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which set a December 2025 deadline for releasing all of the files.

The Times notified the Justice Department on Saturday of nude images that journalists had encountered and flagged more of them on Sunday. A spokeswoman said that the department was “working around the clock to address any victim concerns, additional redactions of personally identifiable information, as well as any files that require further redactions under the act, to include images of a sexual nature.”

“Once proper redactions have been made, any responsive documents will repopulate online,” the spokeswoman said.

Officials have largely removed or redacted the images that The Times flagged for them. The images appeared to show at least seven different people, although The Times did not seek to identify them.

Annie Farmer, who has testified in court about how she was groomed and abused as a teenager by Mr. Epstein and his partner, Ghislaine Maxwell, said the news of such imagery being public was “extremely disturbing.” She said it left her feeling naïve in thinking that the government would follow the law in protecting the victims.

“It’s hard to imagine a more egregious way of not protecting victims than having full nude images of them available for the world to download,” Ms. Farmer said on Sunday.

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Other victims have [expressed outrage](#) that their names and other identifying information have been found in the files.

Brittany Henderson, a lawyer for one woman who was identified in the files even though she had not previously been linked publicly to Mr. Epstein, called the redaction failures “abhorrent.”

“We are frankly shocked by the level of carelessness that the department has shown towards these women,” she said.

The Justice Department was supposed to release all of the Epstein files by Dec. 19 but missed the deadline. Friday's release included not only millions of documents but also 2,000 videos and 180,000 images, and the Justice Department said a team of more than 500 lawyers and reviewers had worked on the publication process.

The redactions at times appear haphazard and contradictory, with some files shielding someone's name and a duplicate file elsewhere making the name public. One email described an "Epstein victim list" but then left dozens of subsequent names exposed, except for one that was redacted.

Some victims are angry that their information was disclosed while powerful people's names were shielded.

In one case, records showed a text exchange between the former Trump adviser Stephen K. Bannon and Mr. Epstein that referenced a news article about President Trump. An associated image of Mr. Trump appeared in the Justice Department files with a redaction box over his face.

Last year, the Trump administration teased the release of investigative files but then backtracked. Democrats and a few Republicans then led an effort to pass a law requiring the files to be made public.