

# Woman tells of abuse by Maxwell when she was 14

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – One of Ghislaine Maxwell's accusers testified Tuesday that she was just 14 years old when the British socialite had her undress, fondled her and told her she had a "great body" that financier Jeffrey Epstein would enjoy.

The woman, who was identified only by her first name, Carolyn, was the third witness to testify at the sex trafficking trial about being sexually abused by Epstein in encounters facilitated by Maxwell, his one-time girlfriend and, later, employee.

Carolyn offered some of the most explicit descriptions so far at the New York trial of Maxwell's alleged grooming of underage victims, who prosecutors say were lured into "a pyramid scheme of abuse."

At times choking up, she testified that she was a heavy drug user and middle school dropout when she was first taken to Epstein's estate in Palm Beach, Florida, by an older teenage friend, Virginia Roberts, now known as Virginia Giuffre.

They were greeted by Maxwell, who said "You can take her upstairs and show her what to do," Carolyn testified.

She said Giuffre and Epstein had sex while she watched. She added she was paid \$300 in \$100 bills at the end of the encounter.

"I was young and \$300 was a lot of money to me," Carolyn said.

After that, she became a regular at the estate, hired to perform sexualized massages.

Maxwell knew she was only 14 at the time, but that didn't dissuade her, Carolyn testified.

She told jurors that during one encounter in Epstein's massage room in the early 2000s, Maxwell "felt my boobs and my hips and my buttocks and she said I had a great body for Mr. Epstein and his friends."

Maxwell, 59, has denied charges she groomed underage girls for Epstein, who killed himself in jail in 2019. Her lawyers say the government is making



In this courtroom sketch, "Carolyn" breaks down while testifying about her experiences with Jeffrey Epstein.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS/AP

her a scapegoat for Epstein's sex crimes.

Prosecutors say Carolyn was one of several vulnerable teens from troubled backgrounds who were pulled into a scheme where Maxwell and Epstein would encourage girls in low-income parts of Florida to find other young victims to bring to his home, in exchange for a finder's fee.

Giuffre would later become perhaps the best known of Epstein's accusers for her allegations that the financier and Maxwell flew her around the world, starting at age 17, to have sex with numerous famous and influential men, including Britain's Prince Andrew.

All of those men, including Andrew, have denied those allegations and they are not expected to be part of the trial.

A prosecutor asked Carolyn who else saw her "fully naked" at Epstein's home. She responded it was Maxwell, two of Epstein's "friends" and two "girls." She didn't say whether the friends were men or women and didn't elaborate on what happened with them.

Giuffre has acknowledged recruiting girls into Epstein's circle, claiming she was coerced into doing so by Maxwell. The Associated Press does not name victims of sexual abuse unless they decide to tell their stories publicly, as Giuffre has.



## Vision Research Receives \$2.9 Million Boost at OU Health Sciences Center, Dean McGee Eye Institute

The vision research program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Dean McGee Eye Institute recently received a five-year, \$2.9 million grant renewal from the National Eye Institute. Called a P30 Vision Core grant, it supports the work of researchers in 21 laboratories with advanced equipment, sophisticated software, and other innovations to drive research that ultimately will improve the quality of life for patients seeking care for their vision.

Vision research is among the most highly funded areas of investigation at the OU Health Sciences Center. The current grant was originally awarded in 2011 and included several "cores" of specialized equipment available to vision researchers across the campus and at the neighboring Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF). The grant renewal expands those cores, giving researchers additional tools to more quickly translate their findings into treatments.

"The amount of this grant renewal is based on the fact that most of our individual researchers hold R01 grants from the National Eye Institute, which is considered the gold standard in vision research funding," said Michelle Callegan, Ph.D., Director of Vision Research at Dean McGee Eye Institute and Professor

in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Microbiology and Immunology in the OU College of Medicine. "Because our vision researchers have been so successful in attracting federal grant funding, we were able to renew this P30 grant, which not only advances their efforts, but helps us to recruit new vision researchers and trainees interested in vision science."

The grant will also fund the creation of a new core in Ocular Immunobiology, providing researchers advanced methods of analyzing the immunological underpinnings of eye disease. "There is an immune-related slant to every model of eye disease," Callegan said, "so the development of this core is really important to us." The Ocular Immunobiology Core will be led by Darren Lee, Ph.D., whose own research focuses on autoimmune uveitis, an inflammation of the eye that is the third-leading cause of blindness in the United States.

Other cores include a Model Imaging Core that allows researchers to analyze visual function and other physiological parameters of eye disease models. The core also includes an emphasis on genotyping to ensure the genetic consistency of research models. It is led by Raju Rajala, Ph.D., whose research focuses on neurodegenerative diseases of the retina. The Cellular Imaging Core provides sophisticated equipment that allows researchers to

visualize physiological processes at the cellular and subcellular levels. That core is directed by Michael Elliott, Ph.D., whose research focuses on cellular membranes and how they control cellular signaling in vision.

Since the original P30 grant was awarded in 2011, vision research has significantly increased at the OU Health Sciences Center and Dean McGee Eye Institute. Nearly 30 research laboratories across the OU Health Sciences Center and at OMRF are focusing on eye diseases, and multidisciplinary collaborations between vision and non-vision research laboratories have flourished. Several new vision researchers have been recruited, launched their own laboratories and gained their own independent funding.

"Many exciting things have occurred because of this P30 grant," Callegan said. "This funding has provided resources that our investigators otherwise would not have access to, and it has advanced research toward our ultimate goal, which is improving and restoring vision."

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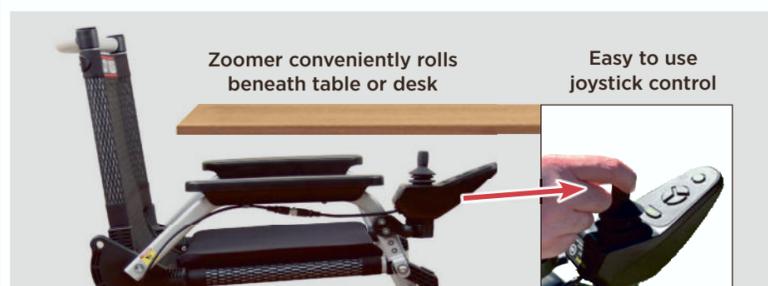
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