

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 23, 2025

Mr. William Blier
Acting Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Inspector General Blier,

Oversight Democrats are investigating Jeffrey Epstein; his enablers, network and accomplices; and the numerous failures by the United States government that denied justice to survivors. Recent disclosures made under the Epstein Files Transparency Act have underscored the depth of these failures. Records prove that Jeffrey Epstein's crimes were first reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1996, nearly a decade before Palm Beach police opened the investigation that resulted in Epstein's first indictment.¹ As we continue our inquiry, we request that the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG) investigate the FBI's failure in the 1990s to adequately respond to or investigate allegations of misconduct by Jeffrey Epstein, including his alleged possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), and to examine why subsequent internal Department reviews failed to meaningfully address that failure.

In 1996, Maria Farmer warned the FBI that Jeffrey Epstein and his associates were sexually abusing minors and producing CSAM. According to Ms. Farmer's complaint, which was recently made public pursuant to the Epstein Files Transparency Act:

"Complainant stated that she is a professional artist and took pictures of her sisters (12 and 16 yrs) for her own personal art work. Epstein stole the photos and negatives and is believed to have sold the pictures to potential buyers. Epstein at one time requested [REDACTED] to take pictures of young girls at swimming pools. Epstein is now threatening [REDACTED] that if she tells anyone about the photos he will burn her house down."²

¹ *Epstein Files Include 1996 Child Porn Complaint That F.B.I. Ignored*, New York Times (Dec. 19, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/12/19/us/epstein-fbi-complaint-1996-maria-farmer.html); *Jeffrey Epstein Timeline: How the Florida Case Led to 15 More Years of Sex Abuse*, Palm Beach Post (July 8, 2025) (online at www.palmbeachpost.com/story/news/local/2025/07/08/jeffrey-epstein-timeline-florida-case-led-to-15-years-of-sex-abuse/84510353007/).

² Department of Justice, *FBI Complaint by Maria Farmer* (Sep. 3, 1996) (online at www.justice.gov/epstein/files/DataSet%204/EFTA00006107.pdf) (Accessed Dec. 22, 2025).

Ms. Farmer bravely and directly accused Epstein of the possession and distribution of CSAM, and her complaint underscores concerns that there may have been actionable evidence of Epstein working with accomplices, his “potential buyers,” to exploit and harm young women and girls as early as 1996. Her complaint also clearly alleged that Epstein used threats to try to intimidate and control vulnerable women in his orbit—a well-documented tactic used by Epstein against other survivors.³ Ms. Farmer also alleges that, at the time of the complaint, she urged FBI investigators to look at other powerful figures in Epstein’s social circle, including former President Bill Clinton and President Donald Trump.⁴

Despite these harrowing allegations, the FBI failed to pursue a thorough investigation at the time and even failed to provide Ms. Farmer with any meaningful follow-up to her complaint for a full decade.⁵ Epstein was allowed to continue exploiting children for years afterward, during which hundreds of additional victims were harmed. Further, by failing to investigate Epstein’s distribution of CSAM to accomplices, the FBI missed an opportunity to uncover and arrest others who participated directly in Epstein’s crimes. To date, Ghislaine Maxwell is the only Epstein accomplice to have been convicted for participating in his crimes, and Attorney General Pam Bondi claims that DOJ has “no evidence that could predicate an investigation against uncharged third parties.”⁶

Compounding these astonishing failures, DOJ’s later internal review of prosecutorial decisions in the Southern District of Florida did not address or mention the 1996 CSAM allegations.⁷ As a result, DOJ, Congress, the American people, and most importantly the survivors of Epstein’s abuse have no understanding of how and why Epstein was allowed to continue his crimes. This lack of review raises serious questions about broader failures of accountability within DOJ.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that DOJ OIG investigate:

1. Why the FBI failed to fully investigate the credible child pornography and sexual abuse allegations reported by Maria Farmer in the mid-1990s;

³ *Jeffrey Epstein Used Victim’s Cancer-Stricken Mom as Leverage to Keep Abusing Her: Suit*, New York Post (Feb. 21, 2024) (online at <https://nypost.com/2024/02/21/us-news/jeffrey-epstein-used-victims-cancer-stricken-mom-for-leverage-suit/>); *Sarah Ransome Writes About Jeffrey Epstein Abuse Allegations in ‘Silenced No More,’* NPR (Dec. 17, 2021) (online at www.npr.org/2021/12/17/1065083182/sarah-ransome-writes-about-jeffrey-epstein-abuse-allegations-in-silenced-no-more).

⁴ *Epstein Files Include 1996 Child Porn Complaint That F.B.I. Ignored*, New York Times (Dec. 19, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/12/19/us/epstein-fbi-complaint-1996-maria-farmer.html).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Memorandum from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (July 2025) (online at www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl?inline).

⁷ Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility, *Report: Investigation into the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida’s Resolution of Its 2006–2008 Federal Criminal Investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and Its Interactions with Victims During the Investigation* (Nov. 2020) (online at www.justice.gov/multimedia/DOJ%20Disclosures/Memos.%20%20Correspondence/2020.11%20DOJ%20Office%20of%20Professional%20Responsibility%20Report.pdf).

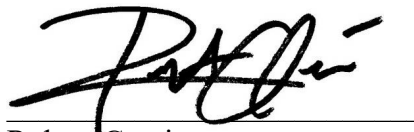
2. Whether those failures were the result of misconduct, gross negligence, or systemic deficiencies within the FBI;
3. Why subsequent DOJ internal reviews appear to have failed to fully examine or address these investigative failures;
4. Whether information related to these allegations was improperly suppressed, disregarded, or withheld, and;
5. What reforms or accountability measures are necessary to ensure such failures do not occur again.

For survivors like Maria Farmer, her family, and all the people Jeffrey Epstein abused in the decades that followed this unanswered complaint, this was not merely a missed investigative opportunity—it was a profound betrayal by their own government. The continued failure to fully examine these early lapses perpetuates the very cover-up that allowed Epstein’s abuse to continue unchecked for decades. We are fighting to end the Epstein cover-up for survivors like Maria Farmer—who was failed repeatedly by the very institutions sworn to protect her—and for the thousands of others whose lives were irrevocably harmed as a result. Transparency and accountability are not optional; they are long overdue.

The American people, and especially Epstein’s survivors, deserve the truth. We urge your office to conduct a thorough, independent investigation and to make your findings public. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman