

Epstein ruling likely to face appeal

The financier's accusers want the case unsealed to use in litigation against the Palm Beach

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WEST PALM BEACH — A judge on Friday declined to suspend his ruling to unseal financier Jeffrey Epstein's secret non-prosecution deal with federal prosecutors, but delayed the document's release until Thursday.

The delay gives Epstein's attorneys time to challenge the ruling in the 4th District Court of Appeal.

"We'll let the appellate court tell us, teach us what the law in this case will be," Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath said.

Epstein's attorneys Jack Goldberger and Robert Critton argued that release of the confidential document would violate a federal rule restricting release of information about federal grand juries and would also cause Epstein irreparable harm.

"If the proverbial horse is out of the barn, you can't get him back in," Critton argued.

Attorneys for women now suing Epstein, together with an attorney for



Epstein
Pleaded guilty to solicitation and procuring teenagers for prostitution.

The *Palm Beach Post* had asked Colbath to release the deal, arguing the public has right to see it and the victims have a right to use it in their litigation.

Epstein pleaded guilty in state court nearly a year ago to solicitation of prostitution and procuring teenagers for prostitution and was sentenced to 18

months in prison.

His plea followed investigations by state and federal authorities checking accounts of teenage girls brought to Epstein's Palm Beach manse for massages and sexual encounters.

At the time of his plea his secret deal with federal prosecutors under which he would not be charged by them was sealed even though court rules on sealing were not followed.

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