

Ghislaine Maxwell complains jail cell has ‘pervasive stench of sewage’

By [Ben Feuerherd](#)

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Ghislaine Maxwell's lawyer is complaining of the conditions inside her cell at Metropolitan Detention Center. [Paul Bruinooge](#)/[Patrick McMullan](#)

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Ghislaine Maxwell's Brooklyn jail cell is an unsanitary mess because of a broken sewage system at the jail — not because she **doesn't flush her toilet**, as prosecutors have claimed, her attorney wrote in a new letter.

Maxwell's attorney, Bobbi Sternheim, was responding in the letter to prosecutors, who claimed the accused madam has let her cell at the Metropolitan Detention Center go down the toilet — in part, by not flushing.

“The government’s letter provides the opportunity to flush out the persistent unsanitary conditions at the MDC, which long predate Ms. Maxwell’s detention,” Sternheim wrote in the letter filed Wednesday night in her Manhattan [federal criminal case](#).

Sternheim then went into detail about alleged sewage problems at the jail.

“This past weekend there was a pervasive stench of sewage in Ms. Maxwell’s unit necessitating guards to flush pipes by pouring water down open drains in an effort to trap and disperse gaseous emissions,” Sternheim wrote.

“At times the stench in Ms. Maxwell’s isolation cell has been overwhelming due to overflowing of toilets in the cellblock above,” the letter states

The main entrance to the Metropolitan Detention Center, where British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell is being held in Brooklyn.

John Minchillo/AP

Sternheim added that Maxwell tries not to use the bathroom in her cell, “due to lack of privacy,” but said she flushes her toilet frequently as the guards ask her to.

In their letter filed Tuesday, prosecutors — who are required to periodically update Judge Alison Nathan about her **conditions at the MDC** — alleged guards at the facility have forced her to clean the cell after she let it become “very dirty.”

“MDC staff directed the defendant to clean her cell because it had become very dirty. Among other things, MDC staff noted that the defendant frequently did not flush her toilet after using it, which caused the cell to smell,” they wrote.

Maxwell was arrested in July 2020 and charged in Manhattan federal court with procuring underage girls for Jeffrey Epstein.

Joe Schildhorn/Patrick McMullan via Getty Images

Prosecutors painted an inaccurate, rosy picture of her conditions behind bars, revealing that she has been fully vaccinated and claiming she does not face harassment by guards, Sternheim wrote.

“The government’s review of the MDC may be Yelp-worthy, but it does not justify Ms.

Maxwell’s inappropriate detention,” her letter states.

Maxwell was arrested in July 2020 and charged in Manhattan federal court with procuring underage girls for Jeffrey Epstein to abuse and **lying about it** under oath.

A sketch shows Ghislaine Maxwell appearing via video link during her arraignment hearing where she was denied bail for her alleged role helping Jeffrey Epstein to recruit and eventually abuse minor girls.

Jane Rosenberg/Reuters

She was recently hit with **two additional sex-trafficking charges** in a superseding indictment unsealed in March based on allegations by a fourth accuser.

She's remained behind bars since her arrest and maintains her innocence.