



## Texas

**'Human trafficking behind prison walls':  
women jailed in Texas allege rampant sexual abuse.**

**Women at FMC Carswell – long a focus of sexual abuse investigations – say prison officials have turned a blind eye**

# Women Call Sexual Abuse In Texas Federal Prison 'Human Trafficking'

Eleven women incarcerated at a federal prison in Texas allege they have been subjected to rampant sexual abuse by staff members in the past seven years. The allegations are the latest accusations of abuse within a federal prison system rife with claims of inhumane conditions, [the Guardian reports](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/11/texas-prison-fmc-carswell-sexual-abuse-allegations).

(<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/dec/11/texas-prison-fmc-carswell-sexual-abuse-allegations>) The allegations at FMC Carswell, a federal medical women's prison in Fort Worth, are particularly troubling because the facility has been the focus of sexual abuse investigations for years, with 13 staff members convicted of abuse and misconduct since 1997 and promises of reform at various times. Now, 11 women have filed fresh lawsuits alleging they have been sexually assaulted by prison staff in recent years. The lawsuits have been filed since May in federal court and list the U.S. and Beth Reese, chief of the office of internal affairs for the federal Bureau of Prisons, as defendants. The suits each lodge 10 civil claims, including negligence, sexual battery and trafficking victims.

The women identify six staff members as perpetrators, including a doctor, chaplain and three officers. Several women say they have been assaulted by the head of the BioMed office. The women say sexual assault is common at Carswell, and that staff and administrators turn a blind eye. "Coming into the system, whether you're guilty or not, it's like you're punished over and over again," said Priscilla Ellis, an army veteran incarcerated at Carswell who said she was abused for more than a year by a staff member. "It's like human trafficking behind prison walls." Benjamin Cole of the BOP public affairs office said "the Federal Bureau of Prisons takes all allegations of sexual abuse seriously and investigates credible allegations thoroughly. Beyond this, we have no further comment."

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