

ANDREW'S NEW FILING

Prince wants case scrapped as accuser lives in Australia

Chris Dolmetsch

New York: Prince Andrew says a US lawsuit accusing him of sexual assault may need to be thrown out because the alleged victim probably lives in Australia.

In a new filing in Manhattan federal court, Andrew said a finding that Virginia Giuffre lived in Australia would remove the court's jurisdiction over the case. He asked US District Judge Lewis Kaplan to force Giuffre to answer questions about her residency under oath.

Giuffre sued Andrew in New York in August, claiming he sexually abused her on multiple occasions when she was 17, after Jeffrey Epstein "lent" her out to the British royal and other powerful men. Andrew has denied her allegations.

In filing, Andrew said recently discovered evidence showed that Giuffre has lived in Australia for all but two of the last 19 years, despite claiming in her suit that she was a resident of Colorado. Giuffre hasn't lived in Colorado since at least 2019,



Prince Andrew has always denied the allegations that he abused Virginia Giuffre. Photo: AP

Andrew said, and had an Australian driver's licence and lived in a \$1.9 million Perth home with her family when she filed the suit.

"It appears that prior to filing this action, but well after she returned to Australia, Ms Giuffre registered to vote for the first time in Colorado using her mother's home address in Penrose," Andrew said. "The timing of Ms Giuffre's voter registration is suspicious and appears to be a calculated move in an effort to support her specious claim of citizenship in Colorado despite having moved to Australia

at least a year (if not four years) earlier."

Giuffre's lawyers didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the filing.

Giuffre has said she was recruited by Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell as a teenager and subject to years of abuse. Though she did not testify at Maxwell's sex-trafficking trial, prosecutors described Giuffre as another victim, and one of the accusers who took the stand said Maxwell asked Giuffre to "show her what to do" in Epstein's Florida message room.

The jury in Maxwell's case closed their fifth day of deliberations without reaching a verdict.

Giuffre has also accused other men linked to Epstein of sexually abusing her, including Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, who has denied the claim and filed his own suit against Giuffre. She also sued Maxwell for defamation after the British socialite called her a liar.

That suit was settled out of court, but Maxwell now faces perjury charges over her deposition testimony denying knowledge of Epstein's interactions with underage girls. Giuffre sued Andrew in New York under so-called "diversity jurisdiction", which allows US residents to sue residents of other states or foreign nationals in federal court. But a US citizen who has permanent residency abroad can't use such jurisdiction to pursue claims in federal court.

Kaplan is set to hear arguments next week on Andrew's recent motion to throw out the case.

Bloomberg

Find a top spot for New Year festivities

Emma Breheny

Left your New Year's Eve to the last-minute, again? These venues (and plenty of others) have seats that need filling as Covid-related cancellations wreak havoc with their reservations.

Of course, if you have any symptoms at all, you should stay at home and get tested as soon as possible. Anyone planning to socialise on New Year's Eve should do a rapid antigen test before going out.

Now, get ready to raise a glass to 2022.

Il Pontile (Woolloomooloo)

Not just a prime spot for seeing the fireworks, Il Pontile on Finger Wharf is also your destination for New Year's Eve with an Italian bent. Dishes that symbolise good luck, such as pig's trotter with lentils, are joined by summery fare like caprese salad and grilled seafood, with a glass of prosecco's grown-up cousin, franciacorta, to kick things off. \$250 for 4 courses. Book via ilpontile.com.au

Ruse Bar and Brasserie (Parramatta)

End the year on a high with prime cuts from the Jasper grill, French bistro classics like beef tartare or seafood, if that's more your vibe. Sit outside on the terrace or ask for a seat with a view of the action in the open kitchen, as you raise a glass of Louis Roederer to a better 2022. From 5.30pm, a la carte menu available. Book via rusebarandbrasserie.com

Loulou (Lavender Bay)

If your 2021 didn't have enough French flair, make up for it at Sydney's newest bistro. Paris Brest topped with foie gras, a seafood platter crammed with oysters, prawns and yellowfin tuna, a whole roasted fish in a Champagne-lifted sauce. Caviar, lobster and bottles of Champagne all optional but highly recommended. \$195 per person for 9-dish shared menu. Book via loulou.sydney

Backyard at The Alex (Alexandria)

Keen to take it outside? Look no further than this reimagined beer garden as a venue in its own right. There's shade for the kids, screens to watch sport (or the fireworks on December 31), skewers of char-grilled goodness from Firepop and pub staples like cheeseburgers or schnitties by Wholly Schnitt. Sounds like the perfect spot to keep the whole household happy. Walk-ins for groups under 10 people; bookings for 10 or more via merivale.com.au

Monopole (city)

Wind back the clock and revel in the OTT vibes of the 1980s for one night only at Monopole. The kitchen is dipping into the archives with devilled eggs, corn vol-auvents, steak Diane and a chocolate bombe Alaska, while sommelier Nick Hildebrandt has raided the cellar for top drops from the decade. \$150 per person for 5 courses. Book via monopolesydney.com.au/newyears2022

New ambulance aircraft to take to the skies



The new ambulance fleet will reach even the state's most remote areas. Photo: John McRae

Daniella White

A new fleet of NSW Ambulance aircraft, likened to "hospitals in the sky", will take flight this weekend.

Deputy Premier Paul Toole said the new planes would improve transport speeds and reach more areas of the state.

The five new Beechcraft King Air 350C planes will be operated and maintained by airline Pel-Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Regional Express Holdings Limited (REX), under a 10-year contract.

The aircraft will begin flying on Saturday and replace the current fleet operated out of the Mascot airbase by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"These aircraft are like hospitals in the sky, and they can get to some of the most remote regions of the state and land at both commercial airports and smaller runways," Mr Toole said.

NSW Ambulance Commissioner Dominic Morgan said the medical fit-out on board was tailored to clinicians' needs and could pick up

more than 6000 patients every year. "Our flight nurses, doctors and pilots are among the best in the country and they helped in the design of what is essentially their office," Dr Morgan said.

"Their expertise and some of the best planes available means it is a perfect fit for everyone, especially our patients."

Senior flight nurse Chris Wilder said it was an exciting change for the ambulance service that would improve its capability.

"We have the ability to travel a lot

higher and faster," he said. "We have the ability to do our special missions far better."

Staff helped design the cabin fit-outs, including the addition of windows so patients can enjoy views from the plane, he said. "That's really good from a patient point of view when they're feeling pretty ordinary and having an otherwise sub-optimal experience."

The contract with Pel-Air ends Ambulance NSW's 19-year partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.