



What to do if a journalist or legal blogger attends your court hearing

The Family Courts are currently running a pilot allowing legal bloggers and accredited media to report on what they see and hear during family court cases, subject to strict rules of anonymity.

The pilot has recently been extended to include courts in London that Camden social workers are likely to attend. In these cases, the judge will issue a “Transparency Order” giving details of what information can be published. Further information about what the courts can do and how this may impact on social workers and families can be found here: [WHAT-TO-DO-WHEN-A-REPORTER-ATTENDS-Non-RP-v-2-2024.pdf \(transparencyproject.org.uk\)](https://www.transparencyproject.org.uk/WHAT-TO-DO-WHEN-A-REPORTER-ATTENDS-Non-RP-v-2-2024.pdf)

- The Court should inform Camden where a reporter or blogger will be attending a hearing but if not, and you become aware of their presence, please inform your manger, service manager and Head of Service immediately.
- If a journalise or blogger approaches you, please refer them to your legal representative and also Camden’s press office (020 7974 5717).
- You may wish to establish who the journalist/legal blogger is (who employs them, or where they are likely to report).
- If the Judge makes a Transparency Order about what can be reported, ensure you have this on the day of the hearing and forward it immediately to your Head of Service, team manager, service manager and allocated IRO/CPO and the including service manager for Case Progression.
- Your Head of Service will then notify the Press Office and may ask you to provide a short summary of the children’s situation.
- If you become aware of any publication of the case, please alert the people listed above.
- Be mindful of any conversations you have in the communal areas of the Court. You will already be doing this, but it’s a helpful reminder that you do not know who else is in the communal areas and you will want to ensure you keep the confidentiality of families in those areas and remember that you are representing Camden in these public spaces.