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press standards
organisation

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Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy: Media Briefing Event

Introduction



- IPSO is the regulator for newspapers and magazines in the UK
- It currently regulates over 1,400 print titles and over 1,000 websites
- Self-regulatory system based on contracts
- Regulates editorial content and the conduct of journalists and administers the Editors' Code of Practice

What IPSO does



- IPSO enforces the Editors' Code of Practice
- Broad remit to promote editorial standards and responsible complaints handling
- Confidential advice for individuals and editors on the Editors' Code and the public interest
- Publishes guidance for journalists and for the public
- Free complaints-handling service
- 24-hour pre-publication and anti-harassment service

Editors' Code of Practice



Balancing freedom of speech with other rights of individuals

1. Accuracy
2. Privacy*
3. Harassment*
4. Intrusion into grief or shock
5. Reporting suicide*
6. Children*
7. Children in sex cases *
8. Hospitals*
9. Reporting of Crime*
10. Clandestine devices and subterfuge*
11. Victims of sexual assault
12. Discrimination
13. Financial journalism
14. Confidential sources
15. Witness payments in criminal trials*
16. Payment to criminals*

*NB: there may be exceptions to the clauses marked * where they can be demonstrated to be in the public interest*

Reporting of suicide



- When reporting suicide, to prevent simulative acts care should be taken to avoid excessive detail of the method used, while taking into account the media's right to report legal proceedings.

Clause 5 – Editors' Code of Practice

- Balance right to report v. protection against simulative acts
- Recognise sensitivity of situation (Clause 4)

What is IPSO doing?



- Uphold the standards (e.g. Farrow v Lancashire Evening Post)
- Engage with Samaritans, Papyrus and others
- Codebook
- Advice to Editors, journalists, members of the public
- Public facing information
- Deaths guidance