

What has changed?

Before January 2025

- Family court hearings were private
- Reporting was very limited

Now

- Accredited journalists and authorised legal bloggers may:
 - attend hearings
 - apply for a transparency order
 - report what they see and hear if the court allows

The existence of open reporting rules does not mean your case will be reported.

The court controls who can attend, what can be reported, and how families and children are protected.

 Most family cases are not attended by journalists. The court remains focused on protecting children and vulnerable people.

Who is this leaflet for?

People involved in family court cases in England and Wales.

Who produced this?

Open Justice Project
Family Law Clinic

WHAT IS A LEGAL BLOGGER?

A legal blogger is a legally qualified person authorised to attend court to report on proceedings. They may be practising lawyers, or lawyers working with universities or registered legal charities.

www.transparencyproject.org.uk



OPEN JUSTICE
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Reporting in the Family Court: What You Need to Know

From January 2025, new rules allow accredited journalists and legal bloggers to attend and report on some family court hearings. This leaflet explains what that means for you and your family.

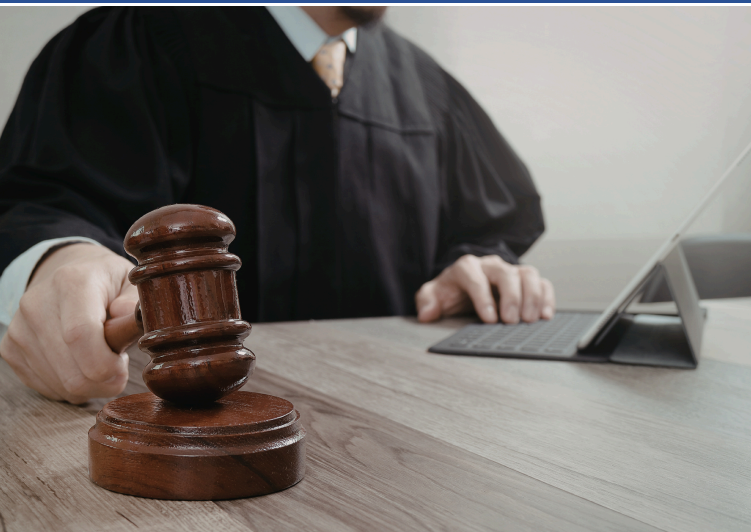
What is a transparency order?

A transparency order is permission from the court that allows limited reporting of a family case, with strict rules.

It can cover:

- what happened in court
- the judge's decision
- information about the case

🛡 Breaching a transparency order can be contempt of court.



What might the court consider before allowing reporting?

The court may consider:

- The type of case
- Whether children are involved
- Any risks of harm or distress
- Whether reporting would help the public understand the case
- The privacy rights of the family

The parties involved in the case will have the opportunity to explain their views to the court before an order is made.

What should you tell the court?

- Any risk to children
- Safety concerns (domestic abuse, harassment)
- Medical or sensitive personal information
- Why reporting might cause distress or harm

How are families protected?

Common protections include:

- Children are not named
- Parents and carers are anonymised
- Addresses and schools are protected
- Sensitive personal details may be excluded

🛡 Even if a transparency order is made, the people involved in the case cannot publish details of the proceedings themselves (for example on social media). Only authorised journalists and legal bloggers can report on what happens in court.

