



MEDIA PROTOCOL

Purpose

1. The Child Safety Commission of Inquiry recognises the important role the media plays in informing the community about the Commission.
2. These protocols set out the arrangements for media access and reporting, with a strong focus on the protection of children's and families' rights, privacy, and wellbeing in accordance with Queensland law and best practice.
3. The Commissioner may vary or depart from these guidelines as necessary to safeguard the interests of children and vulnerable individuals.

Access to Hearings

4. Commission hearings will generally be open to the public and livestreamed via the Commission's website at www.childsafetyinquiry.qld.gov.au.
5. Media representatives in attendance must ensure their reporting does not interfere with the Commission's hearings.
6. Under Queensland law, including the *Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)* and the *Childrens Court Act 1992 (Qld)*, special protections apply to information about children involved in child protection and related proceedings. The Commission expects media to comply strictly with all relevant legislative restrictions, including those on naming, identifying, or publishing information (including video or audio footage) likely to lead to the identification of children or young people.

Use of Electronic Devices

7. Media may use electronic devices during hearings for notetaking, messaging, and reporting, provided such devices:
 - a. do not disrupt the hearings or interfere with the Commission's audio-visual systems;
 - b. are silent and unobtrusive; and
 - c. are not used to record or broadcast images, audio, or video of the hearing or participants without explicit permission.
8. Media must never use devices to capture or distribute images or details of children or young people involved in the Commission.
9. Live recording of hearings is not permitted to preserve the proceeding's integrity and protect the privacy of those involved.



Livestreaming

10. Hearings will generally be livestreamed on the Commission website.
11. The Commission authorises fair use of livestream footage and audio for reporting but may mute, suspend or delay the livestream if sensitive or identifying information about children or vulnerable individuals is at risk of being exposed.
12. The Commissioner has the authority under relevant legislation to issue non-publication or suppression orders in relation to any evidence, submission or statement made during any hearing. This includes any material which may identify a child or other person the Commissioner considers should be protected from being identified. Compliance with such orders is mandatory.

Filming and Photography

13. No filming or photography of proceedings or participants is permitted unless expressly authorised by the Commissioner.

Reporting and Ethical Considerations

14. Media must report with heightened sensitivity to the needs and rights of children, young people, and families involved in the child safety system.
15. Queensland legislation imposes legal obligations to protect the privacy and dignity of children, including prohibitions against identifying children involved in child protection matters.
16. Media must comply with all non-publication orders and refrain from publishing information that could lead to the identification of a child or put any participant at risk.

Contact with Witnesses and Participants

17. The Commission will not facilitate contact between media and witnesses, legal representatives, or members of the public involved in the Commission's processes.

Media Enquiries

18. For media enquiries, please contact: media@childsafetyinquiry.qld.gov.au.
19. Media access guidelines will be published on the Commission's website ahead of scheduled public hearings.