

Media Law Briefing from Professor Tim Crook UK Media Law Pocketbook 2nd Edition.

<https://ukmedialawpocketbook.com/>

Please order the printed and online book for your university/college libraries and adopt it as a course book.

[https://www.routledge.com/The-UK-Media-Law-](https://www.routledge.com/The-UK-Media-Law-Pocketbook/Crook/p/book/9781138309166)

[Pocketbook/Crook/p/book/9781138309166](https://www.routledge.com/The-UK-Media-Law-Pocketbook/Crook/p/book/9781138309166)

Managing the placement of students to experience court reporting- some advice and resources.

The UK's legal system needs public confidence and support. Access, qualitative, fair and accurate reporting in the media is a critical factor in furthering the constitutional principle of Open Justice. I believe universities educating and training journalists can encourage judges and court staff to improve and enhance the achievement of this purpose through active liaison and collaboration.

Journalism university tutors should directly reach out to the presiding judges for local court centres and their senior HMCTS managers. In partnership university and judicial institutions can facilitate and achieve trust, understanding, knowledge and in the end become models for the Open Justice provision.

Arrange a meeting. Discuss what can be achieved. Reach out and collaborate. If your university has a Law Department find out what they do and if lines of communication can be synchronized.

Tutors should be prepared to accompany student groups on any formal visits and if a busy timetable prevents this every time, they should certainly enquire, communicate and provide advance information about the student journalist groups, their purpose and presence, along with reassurance about the quality of education and training in media law being provided to them.

The students need accreditation letters, and when possible student journalist membership press cards from the CIOJ, NUJ and BAJ. (Is there not an advantage in the universities covering the costs for student membership of professional journalism bodies?)

When judges and court staff fully understand that the education and training of student journalists requires attendance and coverage of court hearings and the writing of reports with their assessment, this is more than likely to forge cooperation and most hopefully a symbiosis of appreciation and education. This can surely work both ways.

The USA developed the model many decades ago of media/bench committees at federal, state and city court centres where there would be the opportunity for the various professions to exchange views, thoughts and ideas on how they could all improve and sustain their respective aims. Whatever the decline in the infrastructure of local and regional journalistic coverage, I believe the university journalism and journalism training sectors are in a position to fill the vacuum and revive the function, purpose and extent of court reporting.

Such interaction could also extend to Coroners Courts and Youth Court centres. Yes, only accredited press card carrying professional journalists have access to Youth Courts, but might there be an argument for Youth Courts to permit student journalist reporting presence when accompanied by professional journalist tutors? The Youth Justice system needs understanding particularly at a time when so many young people are the victims and perpetrators of a worrying trend in knife crime.

Student journalists must respect the courtesies and dignity of the court by ensuring they attend on time and avoid excessive disruption of the proceedings when entering and leaving. Only do so during a lull in the proceedings. You should not be moving when the oath is being taken by a witness or juror. And why would any journalist try to enter or leave during a sentencing? Ah...perhaps when they are late! Reporters will find it difficult to do so at such a tense and significant time of the judicial process.

I have previously said that court proceedings are like religious services in churches, temples, mosques and synagogues. There is something sacred and indeed socially and culturally 'spiritual' going on. Due process of the law is purposed to prevent vigilante justice and to ritualize a method of bringing about justice for victims of crimes, their families and communities. So it is sociological, criminological, cultural, and to some extent religious. 'Dieu' or 'God' does appear in the royal arms found in courtrooms in England

and Wales, typically behind the judge's bench, and symbolising that *justice* comes from the monarch and from God whatever the belief systems of the people present. '*Dieu et mon droit*' means 'God and my right.'

It should go without saying that student journalists must dress smartly and appropriately in this environment. A guide to essential reporting published in 2007 observed: 'They won't actually throw you out if you turn up in jeans and a fcuk tee-shirt, but you will find them less than co-operative. Jacket and tie for men, smart outfit for women. No hats or bare shoulders.'

Student reporters should not bring food and drink into the courtroom, and must not use their smartphones and read newspapers, books and magazines during proceedings for personal entertainment. This includes those times when the court is not in session. Lawyers will be still be working in the courtroom.

Student journalists should avoid yawning openly, however boring and soporific the case and submissions. Falling asleep and snoring is another big no-no.

Raucous conversation and talking aloud, smiling and laughter should also be avoided during proceedings and adjournments. If you must talk to a colleague, whisper or write something down on paper. There is a risk that your exaggerated facial expressions could be misinterpreted by the relatives of crime victims and defendants who may be in the public gallery or well of the court.

When the court session begins everyone is expected to stand up when the judge(s) or justices enter and leave the courtroom. It is customary for solicitors, barristers and court officials to bow. You do not have to, but it would not be held against you if you do.

What does the current HMCTS 'General guidance to staff on supporting media access to courts and tribunals' say about student journalist/court reporters?

'Student journalists'

Student journalists will often attend court cases or hearings as part of their training. We should support this as one way to encourage greater court reporting. They are not entitled to sit in press seats but should sit in the public gallery where they are entitled to take notes without permission from the court or judge/magistrate. However, in sensitive cases (such as organised crime), it will help the judge and staff to avoid any misunderstanding if they identify themselves in advance to explain that they plan to do so. Student journalists do need to make an application to the court if they want to use text-based devices to communicate from court. If you receive a request from a student journalist, please speak to the judge presiding over the case or trial. If a lecturer wants to attend court with a group of students to observe a case or hearing, it is good practice (but not mandatory) to let the court know in advance.'

Here is an outline of the information which can be pulled together about the legal system in the Greater London Area as an example of what can be done regionally in other parts of the UK.

The London Magistrates Courts

<https://courtribunalfinder.service.gov.uk/courts/westminster-magistrates-court>

Westminster Magistrates' Court

181 Marylebone Road

London

NW1 5BR

Enquiries:

Enquiries: 020 3126 3050

Opening hours

Court building open: Monday to Friday
9am to 4:30pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm)

Court counter open: Monday to Friday
9am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Enquiries: westminster.mc@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Lavender Hill Magistrates' Court

176a Lavender Hill

Battersea

SW11 1JU

Opening times

Court open

9am to 4.30pm

Counter open

9:15am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Email

Enquiries

southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to
4pm Monday to Friday)

Wimbledon Magistrates' Court

The Court House

Alexandra Road

Wimbledon

SW19 7JP

Opening times

Court open
8:30am to 4:30pm
Counter open
9:15am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Email
Enquiries
southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)
(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)
Please note that the administration for Wimbledon Magistrates Court is run from the South West Administration Centre 176a Lavender Hill.

Thames Magistrates' Court

58 Bow Road
London
E3 4DJ
Opening times
Counter open
9am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Email
Enquiries
northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)
(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)
Thames is the management centre for Stratford, Barkingside and Romford Magistrates Courts.

Barkingside Magistrates' Court

Cranbrook Road
Ilford
IG6 1HW
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday 9am to 4:30pm
Counter open

Counter open 9am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Email
Enquiries
northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)
(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)

Romford Magistrates' Court (formerly Havering Magistrates' Court)

Main Road
Romford
RM1 3BH
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.
Email
Enquiries
northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)
(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)

Stratford Magistrates' Court

The Court House
389-397 High Street
Stratford
London
E15 4SB
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm
No counter service available
Please visit Thames Magistrates' Court from 9am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Email
Magistrates court
northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)

Bromley Magistrates' Court

The Court House

1 London Road

Bromley

BR1 1RA

Opening times

Court open

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Counter open

9am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Email

Enquiries

Southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)

Bexley Magistrates' Court

Norwich Place

Bexleyheath

DA6 7ND

Opening times

Court open

9am to 4:30pm

Counter open

9am to 2:30pm (closed 11am to 1:30pm)

Email

Enquiries

Southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

The management of Bexley Magistrates is carried out by the administration at Bromley Magistrates Court.

City of London Magistrates Court

1 Queen Victoria Street

London

EC4N 4XY

Opening times

Counter open

9am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Court open

9am to 4:30pm

Email

Enquiries

Southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

(LMCCC opening hours from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday)

Willesden Magistrates' Court

448 High Road

London

NW10 2DZ

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Counter open

9am to 11:30am and 1pm to 2:30pm

Email

Enquiries

northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:03003030645)

Hendon Magistrates' Court

The Court House

The Hyde

Hendon

NW9 7BY

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Email

Enquiries

Southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:0300 303 0645)

Uxbridge Magistrates' Court

The Court House

Harefield Road

Uxbridge

UB8 1PQ

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Email

Enquiries

northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:0300 303 0645)

Ealing Magistrates' Court

The Court House

Green Man Lane

Ealing

W13 0SD

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Email

Enquiries

northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:0300 303 0645)

Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court

51 Holloway Road

London

N7 8JA

Opening times

Counter open

Monday to Friday 9am to 11am and
1:30pm to 2:30pm

Counter open

(Application counter) 9am to 10am

Email

Enquiries

northlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:0300 303 0645)

Croydon Magistrates' Court

Barclay Road

Croydon

CR9 3NG

Opening times

Court open

9am to 4:30pm

Counter open

9am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Email

Enquiries

southlondonmc@justice.gov.uk

Payments

Telephone

Enquiries

[0300 303 0645](tel:0300 303 0645)

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Crown Courts listings throughout the country.

<https://www.courtserve.net/courtlists/curent/crown/indexv2crowndailies.php>

Create an account for your journalism university/training centre, sign in and Click on relevant crown court e.g.

Southwark Crown Court, Inner London Crown Court, Central Criminal Court.

The Tim Wood news agency puts out a daily briefing on the progress of newsworthy cases at the Central Criminal Court at: <https://old-bailey.com/old-bailey-cases-of-interest/>

The London Crown Courts

Southwark Crown Court

1 English Grounds
(off Battlebridge Lane)
Southwark
London
SE1 2HU
Opening hours
Court building open: Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Court counter open: 9am to 5pm
Email
Enquiries: southwarkcrowncourt@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
Phone numbers
Enquiries: 020 7522 7200.

Inner London Crown Court

Sessions House
Newington Causeway
London
SE1 6AZ
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm
Counter open
9am to 5pm
Email
Enquiries
innerlondoncrowncourt@justice.gov.uk
Enquiries
[020 7234 3100](tel:02072343100)

Croydon Crown Court

The Law Courts
Altyre Road
Croydon
CR9 5AB
Opening times
Court open

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 6pm
Crown Office opens
9am to 5pm
Email
Enquiries
croydoncrowncourt@justice.gov.uk
Enquiries
[020 8410 4700](tel:02084104700)

Snaresbrook Crown Court

75 Hollybush Hill
Snaresbrook
E11 1QW
Opening times
Court open
8am to 6pm
Counter open
9am to 5pm
Email
Enquiries
snaresbrookcrowncourt@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[020 8530 0000](tel:02085300000)

Kingston upon Thames Crown Court

6-8 Penrhyn Road
Kingston-upon-Thames
KT1 2BB
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday 8:30am to 6pm
Counter open
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Email
Enquiries
kingstoncrowncourt@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[020 8240 2500](tel:02082402500)

Wood Green Crown Court

Woodall House

Lordship Lane
Wood Green
N22 5LF

Opening times

Court open

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday;

Counter open

9am to 4pm

Email

Enquiries

woodgreencrowncourt@justice.gov.uk

Isleworth Crown Court

36 Ridgeway Road

Isleworth

TW7 5LP

Opening times

Court open

9am to 6pm

Counter open

9am to 4pm

Email

Enquiries

isleworthcrowncourt@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[020 8380 4500](tel:020 8380 4500)

Woolwich Crown Court

2 Belmarsh Road

London

SE28 0EY

Opening times

Court open

8:30am to 5pm

Counter open

9am to 4pm

Email

Enquiries

woolwichcrowncourt@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries

[020 8312 7000](tel:020 8312 7000)

Serious Fraud Office Upcoming
cases/hearings

<https://www.sfo.gov.uk/court-calendar/>

Serious Fraud Office cases

<https://www.sfo.gov.uk/our-cases/>

Royal Courts of Justice cause list online
for building complex at Strand/Fleet
Street.

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/court-lists/list-cause-rcj>

The Building and history

<https://theroyalcourtsofjustice.com/>

The Royal Courts of Justice, commonly
called the Law Courts, is a court building
in Westminster which houses the High
Court and Court of Appeal of England
and Wales. The High Court also sits on
circuit and in other major cities.

Strand, London WC2A 2LL

Phone: [020 7947 6000](tel:020 7947 6000)

National links for High Court Centres

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/court-lists>

UK Supreme Court in Parliament Square

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/>

Court sittings

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/visiting/court-sittings.html>

Briefings on current cases

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/current-cases/index.html>

Press and Media Enquiries

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/press-office.html>

For general enquiries, please contact:

The Supreme Court

Parliament Square

London
SW1P 3BD
Switchboard: 020 7960 1500 or 1900

Court News provides reports from Central Criminal Court, other London Crown Courts and tribunals around the country and offer short summaries with intros of ongoing cases at:

<http://courtnewsuk.co.uk>

The Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey, is a more difficult building to access for student journalists because of a much higher security regime.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/law-historic-governance/central-criminal-court>

Monday to
Friday
9.55am 12.40pm
1.55-3.40pm

Telephone: 020 7192 2739

Email: ccc.enquiries

Central Criminal
Court
Address: Old Bailey
London EC4M 7EH

Members of the public are restricted to separate public gallery access and mobile phones, professional digital recorders are not allowed. If you have not made prior arrangements and follow the protocol below, you will be restricted to the public galleries, which are not ideal for practical reporting.

It is highly advisable to make prior arrangements as the tutor for student reporter visits to the Central Criminal

Court. Student reporter visits to carry out reporting inside the courtrooms of the Central Criminal Court normally require a separate letter of accreditation from the lecturer/editor supervisor on letter-headed paper affirming bona fide status and explicitly stating which court cases the student reporter will be covering. This would be shown by the student(s) to security staff at the revolving door entrance. And then a copy of this letter in pdf form at the same time needs to be sent by the tutor to an email address provided by the Court.

It is always advisable to make prior contact to HMCTS staff at court centres prior to student reporter visits so they have warning and can recognize and accommodate your presence.

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Covering the London Coroners' Courts

City of London Coroner's office

Forthcoming hearings listed at:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/births-deaths-and-marriages/inquest-hearings>

Address: City of London Coroner's Court
Walbrook Wharf
78-83 Upper Thames Street
London EC4R 3TD
020 7332 1598
coroner@cityoflondon.gov.uk

The other coroner areas in London

East London

<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/coroners-court>

Details of forthcoming inquests are listed on this webpage.

<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-marriages/deaths/coroners-court/coroners-court>

Her Majesty's Coroners Eastern Area of Greater London

The Eastern District of London Coroner covers five London Boroughs - Waltham Forest, Newham, Redbridge, Havering and Barking and Dagenham.

The Coroners Court

Queens Road

Walthamstow E17 8QP

Email: Coroners@walthamforest.gov.uk

Tel: 020 8496 5000 - listen to the whole voicemail message and for deaths in Waltham Forest, Newham and Redbridge please select option 1. For deaths in Barking & Dagenham and Havering please select option 2

Inner North

St Pancras Coroners Court 020 7974 4545

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/coroners-service>

Poplar Coroner's Court St Pancras
Coroner's Court

127 Poplar High Street Camley Street
London E14 0AE London N1C 4PP
Tel: 020 7538 1201 Tel: 020 7974 4545

Fax: 020 7538 0565 Fax: 020 7383 2485
View location for E14 0AE View location for N1C 4PP

Forthcoming inquest diaries for Poplar and St Pancras at:-

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/coroners-service#yywe>

Inner East

Poplar Coroners Officer 020 7538 1201

Poplar Coroners Court

127 Poplar High Street

Tower Hamlets

London E14 0AE Tel: 0207 538 0602

<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/advice-and-benefits/births-marriages-and-deaths/coroner-sudden-death-investigation>

Inner South

Her Majesty's Coroner for the Inner Southern District of Greater London

This district includes the boroughs of Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

Southwark Coroners Court

Website page

<https://www.innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk/>

Court Diary

<https://www.innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk/court-diary>

Greater London - Inner South London District

Southwark Coroners Court 1 Tennis Street London Greater London Authority SE1 1YD

Work T: 020 7525 4200

Fax: 0207 378 8401

Inner London South Coroner's Court, 1 Tennis Street, London, SE11YD.

Press Inquiries to

CoronersClerk.Enquiries@southwark.gov.uk

Inner West- Westminster Coroner's Court

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/contactsdirectory/az.aspx?orgid=1736&&ba=show>

Jurisdiction covers the boroughs of Wandsworth and Merton, the Royal

Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the City of Westminster.
Westminster Coroner's Court 020 7641 1212
65 Horseferry Road
LONDON
SW1P 2ED.
(Currently being refurbished alternately located 33 Tachbrook Street Pimlico LONDON SW1V 2JR)
Telephone 020 7641 1212
Email hdavies@westminster.gov.uk

North London

Forthcoming hearings and lists on this page: <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/births-death-and-marriages/registering-death/coroners>

HM Coroner's Court for North London, covering Haringey, Barnet, Brent, Harrow and Enfield.

Greater London - Northern London District

29 Wood Street Barnet London Greater London Authority EN5 4BE

Work T: 020 8447 7680

Barnet Coroner's Court

For general enquiries please

email court.clerk@hmc-northlondon.co.uk

Barnet Coroner's Court 020 8447 7680

South London

<http://southlondoncoroner.org>.

(Forthcoming hearings listed- names only)

South London Coroner's Service, 2nd Floor, Davis House, Robert

Street, Croydon CR0 1QQ

Main switchboard: 020 8313 1883

e-mail: info@southlondoncoroner.org

Croydon, Bexley, Bromley and Sutton Coroner's Court 020 8313 1883

<http://southlondoncoroner.org/press-and-media/>

Very good Frequently Answered

Questions page:

<http://southlondoncoroner.org/faqs/>

West London

<https://www.westlondoncoroner.org/>

Fax: 020 8753 6803

West London District Coroner's Court
020 8753 6800

25 Bagley's Lane SW62QA

<https://www.westlondoncoroner.org>

Listing of hearings

<https://www.westlondoncoroner.org/court-diary.php>

For deaths in Ealing or Hillingdon

Email: ealingandhillingdoncoroners@lbhf.gov.uk

Telephone: 020-8753-5777 / 020-8753-2760 / 020-8753-4275

For deaths in Richmond or Kingston

Email: richmondandkingstoncoroners@lbhf.gov.uk

Telephone: 020-8753-5135 / 020-8753-6797 / 020-8753-2205

For deaths in Hammersmith, Fulham or Hounslow

Email: hffandhounslowcoroners@lbhf.gov.uk

Telephone: 020-8753-2161 / 020-8753-6220 / 020-8735-2502

Coroner's Clerks

(press and general enquiries)

Email: hmcoroner@lbhf.gov.uk

Telephone: 020-8753-4422 / 020-8753-1427

Journalists should not pre-judge the conclusion of an inquest unless the cause of death is beyond doubt and unarguable. Coroners do not appreciate the media

reporting that somebody has taken their own life before an inquest has been held into their death. For example, when a body has been found in a river it is obviously not a foregone conclusion that they drowned themselves, or that they have actually died from drowning.

Discretion and sensitivity is needed when reporting the details of inquest proceedings. News publishers are not obliged to reproduce the graphic details of how people met their deaths.

Excessive reporting of gruesome and intimate information about people's injuries and illnesses will lead to accusation of gratuitous exploitation of the narrative which would cause unnecessary offence and hurt to grieving relatives.

English statutory law does in fact ban publication of indecent, medical, surgical or physiological details calculated to injure public morals, but as yet this 1926 provision has never been tested by prosecution.

Whenever reporting inquests about suicide please include the following information:

In the UK and Ireland, the Samaritans can be contacted on 116 123.

<https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you/contact-us>

Papyrus are contactable on 0800 068 41 41 or by texting 07786 209 697, or emailing pat@papyrus-uk.org.

Prevention of young suicide <https://www.papyrus-uk.org>

In the US, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-8255.

In Australia, the crisis support service Lifeline is on 13 11 14.

Hotlines in other countries can be found at: <http://www.suicide.org/international-suicide-hotlines.html>

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London County and Family Courts (and Greater London region)

Central London County Court

County Court at Central London,
Thomas More Building
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London
WC2A 2LL

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm

Counter open

By Appointment only on 0207 947 7502

Email

Enquiries

Enquiries.centallondon.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Enquiries

[0300 123 5577](tel:03001235577)

Bromley County Court and Family Court

Address

Court House
College Road
Bromley
BR1 3PX

Opening times

Court open

Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm

Counter open

By appointment only

Email

Enquiries

Enquiries.bromley.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
Family court
Family.bromley.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)

**Central London County Court
(Bankruptcy)**

Address
Room 1.05
1st Floor, Thomas More Building
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London
WC2A 2LL
Opening times
Counter service by appointment only
Court open
9am to 4pm
Email
Enquiries
rcjbankclccdhearings@justice.gov.uk
Enquiries
rcjcompncclcc@justice.gov.uk
Telephone
Enquiries
[020 7947 6448](tel:020 7947 6448)

**Clerkenwell and Shoreditch County
Court and Family Court**

Address
The Gee Street Courthouse
29-41 Gee Street
London
EC1V 3RE
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm
Counter open
By appointment only for urgent work.
Email

Enquiries
enquiries.clerkenwellandshoreditch.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
Family court
family.clerkenwellandshoreditch.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
(Including C100 applications)
Telephone
Enquiries
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)
Civil court
[0207 250 7294](tel:0207 250 7294)

Croydon County Court and Family Court

Address
The Law Courts
Altyre Road
Croydon
CR9 5AB
Opening times
Court open
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.
Counter open
By appointment only.
Email
Enquiries
enquiries.croydon.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
Listing
hearings.croydon.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
Family court
CroydonCty.PublicLaw@Justice.gov.uk
County court
croydonurgentapp@justice.gov.uk
(Urgent Private law & Family Law act injunctions)
Telephone
Civil court
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)
(All queries are to be in writing or through the helpdesk)

Dartford County Court and Family Court

Address

Home Gardens
Dartford
DA1 1DX

Opening times

Counter open
For urgent matters only by prior appointment
Court open
Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 16:00

Email

Enquiries
enquiries.dartford.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

(Civil Enquiries)

Family.Dartford.CountyCourt@justice.gov.uk

(Family Enquiries)

Telephone

Enquiries
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)
(from 9am to 5pm)

Kingston upon Thames County Court and Family Court**Address**

Hearing Centre
St James Road
Kingston-upon-Thames
KT1 2AD

Opening times

Counter open
By appointment only
Court open
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm

Email

Enquiries
Enquiries.kingston.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Enquiries

[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)

Romford County Court and Family Court**Address**

2a Oaklands Avenue
Romford
RM1 4DP

Opening times

Court open
Monday-Friday 9am-4pm
Counter open
10am to 2pm, by appointment for urgent business only.

Email

Family court
family.romford.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Enquiries

civil.romford.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)

Wandsworth County Court and Family Court**Address**

76-78 Upper Richmond Road
Putney
SW15 2SU

Opening times

Court open
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
Counter open
By appointment only

Email

Enquiries
enquiries.wandsworth.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries
[0300 123 5577](tel:0300 123 5577)

Watford County Court and Family Court**Address**

10 King Street
Watford
WD18 0BW

Opening times

Court open
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
Counter open
10am to 2pm (by prior appointment only).

Email

County court
enquiries.watford.countycourt@justice.gov.uk
(for Civil (County Court) matters)

Willesden County Court and Family Court

9 Acton Lane
Harlesden
NW10 8SB

Opening times

Court open
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm
Counter open
By prior urgent appointments only to do so Tel. 020 8963 8212

Email

Enquiries
Enquiries.willesden.countycourt@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

Enquiries
[03001235577](tel:03001235577)

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London Youth Courts (and Greater London region)

The youth courts in London do not operate in discrete and separate court centres. They are accommodated in existing Magistrates Courts.

The South West London Youth Court sits at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court.
Youth court code: 6577.

The West London Youth Court sits at Ealing Magistrates' Court and Uxbridge Magistrates' Court.
Youth court code: 6578.

The North West London Youth Court sits at Willesden Magistrates' Court.
Youth court code: 6571.

The North London Youth Court sits at Highbury Magistrates Court and receives cases from the London Boroughs Islington / Camden / Haringey / Enfield / Hammersmith & Fulham / City of Westminster / Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.
Youth court code: 6572.

The East London Youth Court sits at Stratford Magistrates' Court. Where youths appear with adult defendants they will appear at Thames Magistrates.
Youth court code: 6574.

The North East London Youth Court sits at Barkingside and Romford Magistrates' Courts.
Youth court code: 6573

The South London Youth Court sits at Croydon and Bromley Magistrates' Courts.
Youth court codes: 6575 and 6576. Cases from Croydon and Sutton are heard in Croydon and cases from Bromley & Southwark, Lambeth & Lewisham boroughs are heard in Bromley.

There is a special terminology to be adopted when reporting the youth courts. Young people appearing (In England and Wales they will be aged

17 and under) do not plead guilty or not guilty. They should be represented as admitting or denying offences.

In youth courts there are findings of guilty and these should not be described as convictions. Youths are not sentenced. They are made the subject of a court order.

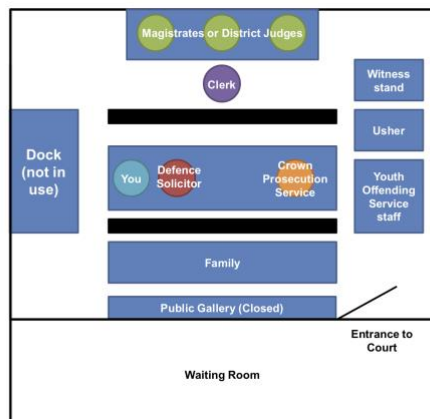


Diagram of a Youth Court lay-out courtesy of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Justice Service.

The process in Youth Courts is less formal and the process is determined by panels of specialist magistrates. Parents are normally present. The public are prohibited by law from attending. Do bear in mind that Youth Courts will not be familiar with the presence of journalists. Their attendance is very rare. Consequently, the possession of a press card and proper accreditation with courtesy and understanding would be advised when seeking to gain access.

Section 49 of the Children and Youth Persons Act 1933 imposes an automatic ban on identifying any young person involved in Youth Court proceedings and including any information that could lead to their identification and that of their schools. See:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5/23-24/12/section/49>

'No matter relating to any child or young person concerned in

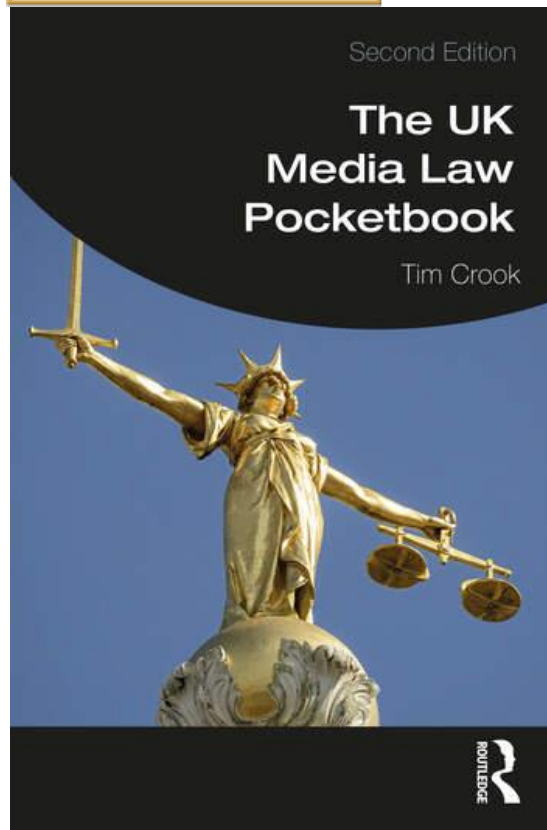
proceedings to which this section applies shall while he is under the age of 18 be included in any publication if it is likely to lead members of the public to identify him as someone concerned in the proceedings.'

The prohibition relates specifically to the following information about youths involved in the process: '(a) name, (b) his address, (c) the identity of any school or other educational establishment attended by him, (d) the identity of any place of work, and (e) any still or moving picture of him (includes any likeness).'

There is a provision under Section 49(4A) that 'If a court is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, it may, in relation to a child or young person who has been convicted of an offence, by order dispense to any specified extent with the restrictions.' When doing so they will have to take into account the welfare of the young person in a human rights balancing act with Article 10 Freedom of Expression and the future welfare and interests of the young person are expected to be given 'great weight' in that balancing exercise.

It is important to appreciate that 'bona fide representatives of newspapers or news agencies' are entitled to report Youth Courts as a statutory right under section 47(2)(c) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. See:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5/23-24/12/section/47>



The second edition of *The UK Media Law Pocketbook* presents updated and extended practical guidance on everyday legal issues for working journalists and media professionals.

This book covers traditional print and broadcast as well as digital multimedia, such as blogging and instant messaging, with clear explanations of new legal cases, legislation and regulation, and new chapters on freedom of information and social media law. Links to seven new online chapters allow readers to access all the

most up-to-date laws and guidance around data protection, covering inquests, courts-martial, public inquiries, family courts, local government, and the media law of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Tim Crook critically explores emerging global issues and proposals for reform with concise summaries of recent cases illustrating media law in action, as well as tips on pitfalls to avoid.

The UK Media Law Pocketbook is a key reference for journalists and media workers across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The book's companion website provides downloadable sound files, video summaries, and updates all the developments in one of the most dynamic and rapidly changing fields of law. Visit <https://ukmedialawpocketbook.com>.

Preview:-

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