

Press information from

## THE EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

For immediate release, Tuesday, December 3, 2024

### EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE TO BE REVISED

The Editors' Code of Practice, under which the vast majority of Britain's newspaper, magazine and news website journalists work, has been revised to strengthen protection of children.

Clause 6 (iii) has been amended to clarify who can consent to provide information about a child's welfare.

The change, which will come into effect on January 1, was made after a ruling by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) in the complaint *A woman v South Wales Argus*:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings/21023-23/>.

IPSO said it did not consider the wording of the existing clause to be clear as to whether a father quoted in the story would be considered "a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult", as required by the Code.

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee investigated and recommended the new text.

The term "custodial parent" has been removed and the section now requires consent by "an adult with legal parental responsibility or similarly responsible adult".

Chris Evans, editor of the Daily Telegraph and chairman of the Code committee, said: "The change clarifies the clause, while still recognising the complex nature of modern family life.

"The Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which brings together editors, IPSO's regulators and independent lay members, is responsible for ensuring that the Code sets high standards and evolves as circumstances change.

"The Code has been in existence for over 30 years and in that time, it has been amended more than 30 times to ensure it is fit for purpose."

### The Code change

#### ***Existing terms of Clause 6 (iii):***

iii) Children under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents.

#### ***The new text, with effect from January 1, 2025:***

iii) Children under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless an adult with legal parental responsibility or similarly responsible adult consents.

### The Editors' Code of Practice Committee membership

Chris Evans, Daily Telegraph (chairman); Maria Breslin, Liverpool Echo; Ian Carter, Iliffe Media; David Clegg, The Courier; Sarah de Gay, independent lay member; Charlotte Dewar, CEO, IPSO; Lord Faulks, Chairman, IPSO; Andrew Harrod, Barnsley Chronicle; Tina Sany-Davies, Bauer Media; Gary Shipton, National World; Jay Stone, independent lay member; Ben Taylor, Sunday Times; Steven Vaughan, independent lay member; Ted Verity, Daily Mail

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