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Guidelines

Subcommittee on the Reporting of Juvenile Court Proceedings

11. Nothing in the foregoing guidelines shall be construed to prevent news media from exercising their constitutional right to publish any news about juvenile offenders from the time of their apprehension through the disposition of the case, should the latter not wish to release such information.
1. News media and judges should work together with confidence in, and respect for, each other.
2. News media should be welcome to all sessions of the juvenile court. If the privilege is exercised and cases are reported, news media should not disclose names or identifying data of the participants unless authorized by the court. News media attending sessions of the juvenile court should make every effort to remain in attendance during all sessions of cases they intend to report.
3. The names and identifying data pertaining to alleged juvenile offenders may be used by the news media in those cases that are remanded by the juvenile court for criminal prosecution under adult standards.
4. Responsibility for developing sound public interest in and understanding of the child, the community, and the court must be shared by the judge and the news media.
5. All official records should be open to the news media with the judge's consent, unless inspection is prohibited by statute.
6. Confidential reports, such as social and clinical studies, school or personal records, should not be open to inspection by the press, except at the express order of the court.
7. The judge, at his discretion, may release the name or other identifying information of a juvenile offender in his court.
8. The court should strictly adhere to the Canons of Professional Ethics, which generally condemn the release of information concerning pending or anticipated judicial proceedings.
9. If an alleged act of delinquency is publicized, news media should be informed of the disposition of the case to complete the original story.
10. In the handling of juvenile matters the basic principles of fairness and cooperation summarized in the preamble and principles of the Bench-Bar-Press Committee of Washington shall apply. The possibility that any juvenile matter may ultimately be handled as a criminal case should be born in mind.

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11. Nothing in the foregoing guidelines shall be construed to prevent news media from exercising their constitutional right to publish any news about juvenile offenders from the time of their apprehension through the disposition of their cases if such information can be obtained from sources other than the courts, should the latter not wish to release such information.

a. In such instances due consideration should be given to recommendations of the juvenile court and its officers.

b. In determining whether to disclose names or other identifying data pertaining to alleged juvenile offenders, due consideration should be given as to whether that information is of the type the public must have to be fully aware of its juvenile court and the delinquency situation.