

The family courts are becoming more transparent, which means certain reporters can now attend hearings and write about them. This is to help the public understand how the courts work, while still protecting your family's privacy.

If your case is included, you'll receive a **Transparency Order**, which sets out what can and can't be reported. This leaflet explains what this means for you and answers common questions.

Read on to understand your rights and what to expect.

Why can my case be reported?

The head family judge in England and Wales has decided that the family justice system should be more open. This means that certain reporters are allowed to come to hearings, and report on what they see and hear.

Anything that is reported will be anonymised so that you and your family cannot be identified.

Between 2023 – 2025, the Transparency Implementation Group (The TIG) ran a pilot in about half the family courts in England and Wales to see how this worked. There was also an independent evaluation by the National Centre for Social Research.

What if I have any questions?

If you have a lawyer, speak to your lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, please contact the Court. The transparency order will tell you who the point of contact is for your case.

If you would like to speak to somebody from the TIG, please contact the TIG secretary Jack Harrison by email, pilots@thetig.org.uk. Please note we cannot talk about your case with you or give you any legal advice.

Find contact details and information on courts and tribunals in England and Wales, and some non-devolved tribunals in Scotland.

You can find the following details:

- address
- contact details
- opening times
- how to get to the court or tribunal
- the areas of law it covers
- disabled access to the building



[gov.uk/find-court-tribunal](https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal)



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

Openness in the Family Court: What You Need to Know

An information sheet for parents and family members on reporting in the family court by journalists and legal bloggers



