

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING THE INJURED AND THE ILL

Covering news relating to persons in hospitals and other similar institutions requires special sensitivity and care, particularly to ensure that the privacy and dignity of victims and patients is preserved.

All decisions to broadcast audio and/video recordings made in such places require balancing the public interest in the story with any distress such filming/broadcast may cause to the patient or, in the case of deceased patients, to the family.

When filming in potentially sensitive places, such as ambulances, hospitals, etc. a broadcaster should ordinarily obtain consent from the team attending on the person/patient or any other responsible person concerned.

The right to privacy and confidentiality of the patient is paramount. A broadcaster should not normally broadcast any footage without clear, informed consent from the persons being filmed and or relatives, and when such broadcast is in public interest.

In reporting on persons under treatment in sensitive places such as hospitals and other places, the following guidelines must be rigidly followed:

1. A broadcaster should not film or interview anyone who is distressed or in pain.
2. No broadcaster shall invade the privacy or violate the dignity of persons who are affected, injured and/or under treatment in hospitals and other similar places. When otherwise justified in public interest, care should be taken to record both audio and video in a way which minimizes intrusion and privacy of the patient. However, in case of objection, by the patient or any other person on his or her behalf, a broadcaster should not do any audio or video recording.
3. No broadcaster shall enter any casualty, intensive care unit, ward, room or other medical section of any hospital or other places without the express consent of the concerned persons.
4. No broadcaster shall door-step or attempt to contact the family, relatives or friends of a patient under treatment in a hospital or other similar places, without their express consent.
5. Special care should be taken while reporting incidents relating to children, mindful of the increased sensitivity needed in their case.
6. In case showing the patient is justified, the face and sensitive parts of the body should invariably be masked.
7. While a broadcaster shall be entitled to report upon issues of public interest such as mishandling, corruption, malpractices, etc. that may be happening in and in relation to hospitals and other similar institutions, even where such issues are covered, the privacy and dignity of patients, the affected and injured shall always be respected by duly masking faces and identities of such persons to ensure that their privacy and dignity are not compromised in any manner.
8. Broadcasters must scrupulously abide by the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2000 and the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules 2006, and other applicable laws.

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