

Open Justice

Criminal Justice

Why criminal proceedings are public, and the recognised exceptions.

A principle with exceptions, not an absolute rule.

Why openness

Public scrutiny checks judicial power

Deters misconduct by all participants

Supports public understanding of process

Enables research and accountability

Reporting informs as well as deters

Recognised limits

Anonymity for children and some victims

Restrictions protecting a fair trial

Closed material in security cases

Jury deliberations kept secret

Privacy in family and youth proceedings

Educational reference. Which restrictions apply, and the tests for them, vary by jurisdiction. Not legal advice on reporting.