

Defamation & Publication

Communications & Media

What a claimant generally has to establish, in broad outline.

Elements commonly required, and where risk hides.

Typically required

A statement conveying a defamatory meaning	Reference to an identifiable person
Publication to at least one third party	Harm to reputation, sometimes serious harm
Fault, varying by claimant and jurisdiction	

Hidden risk

Meaning carried by juxtaposition or photo	Headlines read apart from the article
Repeating another outlet's allegation	Comments and quotes you host
Unintended identification of a bystander	

Educational reference. Defamation law differs profoundly between countries on fault, burden and remedy. Always take local legal advice.