



*Manitoba  
Department of Justice  
Prosecutions*

*Guideline No: 2:COM:4*

*Subject: Communication with the News Media  
Date: January 2020*

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS) sees the benefit of providing information to the news media, subject to the direction provided in the Prosecution Guideline on Media Communication and the overriding duty to safeguard the fairness of the trial process. The communication of accurate, factual information to the news media can enhance public confidence in the justice system and promote greater understanding of it.

Except in rare instances, all MPS communication with the media will be through or with the assistance of the Justice Communications Coordinator. Further, Crown Attorneys should be mindful of the Code of Professional Conduct of the Law Society of Manitoba and Crown Attorneys Code of Professional Conduct in responding to any media inquiries.

**RATIONALE:**

The public's confidence in the justice system is determined in large part by the information that citizens receive from the news media. In this era of increasing media scrutiny of the criminal justice system, it is important that Crown Attorneys provide accurate and timely information to the public through the news media.