

PCC criticises OK! Magazine for identifying AA attendee

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a privacy complaint against OK! Magazine. The magazine reported that the complainant and her friend (a male celebrity) had attended an AA meeting, and included a photograph of them outside the meeting.

The complainant - who has asked to be kept anonymous - argued that the article (including the photograph) intruded into her privacy, as it disclosed the fact of her addiction and treatment, which had never previously been revealed in the media. The magazine said that it had only stated that she had attended the meeting; there were no private details about treatment, and readers might conclude that she was attending merely to support her friend.

The Commission considered that the details and photograph together constituted intrusive material about the complainant in breach of Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Code. The Commission judged that the magazine's defence was 'clearly without merit': it had stated that the complainant had attended the meeting without knowing whether she was there for treatment (as had subsequently proved to be the case). Such a failure to take care not to intrude into the complainant's privacy was 'reckless' in the circumstances. The complaint was upheld on that basis.

To read the full adjudication, [click here](#)

ENDS

For further information, please call Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022

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