# Family Law Reporting Project Reporting Protocol

The following Reporting Protocol has been prepared by the Family Law Reporting Project and governs the operation of the Project:

1. The Family Law Project shall operate under the relevant Rules of Court for the High, Circuit and District Court.
2. The reports shall be published by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in printed or electronic form, which will be made available to the public.
3. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the writing of reports is not permitted.
4. The reporter shall take the utmost care to ensure that the reports do not contain any information that could lead to the identification of any party to the proceedings or any child or other dependent of a party to the proceedings, including "jigsaw" identification.
5. Where a party is known to the reporter, s/he shall withdraw from attendance at the proceedings to ensure the maintenance of the parties' privacy.
6. The following measures will be taken to ensure the anonymity of the parties and any family members to whom the proceedings relate:
    a. Reports shall not use the initials of the parties' names in identifying published reports of individual cases. Reports shall refer to "the husband", "the wife", "the father", "the mother", "partner" or other relative;
    b. Where children are involved, and there is more than one child the reports shall allocate alphabetical letters to the children;
    c. There shall be no reference to the city, town or geographical area where the parties live or the case is heard, outside of Dublin, where there is a large volume of such cases, which protects anonymity. Terms such as "a provincial city" or "a rural town" shall be used in referring to the court where the proceedings are heard;
    d. There shall be no specific reference to the trade or profession of the parties, unless it is relevant to the issues in the proceedings; general descriptions like "a businessman" or "a professional woman" will be used;
    e. There shall be no specific reference to the quantity of assets held by parties to the proceedings, except to the extent to which it may be relevant to the proceedings;
    f. Where there are dependent children, there shall be no identification of the children's school or any therapeutic facility that may be involved. If the child is attending a special school and this is relevant to the issues in the proceedings the specific school will not be identified;
    g. Particular sensitivity shall be shown in dealing with psychological and welfare reports on children. Where specific details of allegations of sexual or physical

abuse are relevant to the proceedings they may be reported upon only to the extent relevant to the proceedings and the orders being sought;

h. The guidelines on the preservation of anonymity under paragraph 4 above shall apply to the contents of any document filed or produced to the court or to any order made by the court and accessed by the project to complete its research;

i. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that details of case numbers and other case identifiers maintained by the reporters for the purpose of tracking cases, research and analysis, as distinct from reporting on individual cases, are maintained securely.

7. Interim and final synthesis reports on the findings of the project will also ensure the preservation of the anonymity of the families concerned.