

The provisions of section 154(2)(b) of the Criminal Procedure Act are clear: "no person shall at any stage before the appearance of an accused upon any charge referred to in section 153(3) or at any stage after such appearance but before the accused has pleaded to the charge publish in any manner whatever any information relating to the charge in question". The charges referred to are inter alia ones relating to any indecent act or attempt thereto or to any act promoting the commission of an indecent act.

Section 335A also finds application: as from the date of the commission or alleged commission of an offence as referred to in section 153(3)(a) and (b), (again, offences involving indecent acts) no information may be published that might reveal the identity of the complainant except if application is made to a magistrate in chambers and the latter, taking into account the wishes of the complainant, authorizes such publication

In both instances non-compliance with the provisions amount to offences, punishable by a fine of R1500 or 1 year imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment. (Proposals in the new Sexual Offences Bill are that the punishment be increased to a fine or 2 years imprisonment or both but in the case of a contravention relating to a witness or accused under the age of 18, to a fine or 3 years' imprisonment or both and also that complainants of sexual offences will be able to apply for compensation for physical, psychological or other injury including loss of income.)

The common law offences of Contempt of Court and, in so far as it overlaps with the offence of Defeating the ends of justice or an attempt thereto, also need to be reckoned with--any wilful act or omission calculated to bring into contempt or disrepute the administration of justice whether by insulting the officials charged therewith or by rendering it ineffective and any writing or

saying calculated to prejudice a judicial proceeding that is pending or that tends to prejudice the due decision of a case, constitutes the offence of Contempt of Court. Examples are:

- if comments on a case sub judice are published; or
- if the contents of documents that had not yet been dealt with in open court are published, especially where the admissibility thereof might be in dispute;
- or where a party effects propaganda going into the merits of the case and accusing the other side of incorrect moral or legal conduct; or
- where comment is published upon a pending case that is of such a nature that it tends to
 - interfere with the administration of justice by affecting the presiding officer or by inducing compromise or by influencing witnesses; or
 - by causing to be published or publishing comments on the character of a witness or an accused.

Members are urged to bring the contents of this newsletter to the attention of colleagues and to ensure that appropriate steps are taken in all instances where relevant ethical codes had been transgressed.

Websites on child abuse

Prof Herman Conradie has submitted the following websites on child abuse, which should yield valuable information.

South Africa

<http://www.caag.org.za/>
<http://www.rapcan.org.za/>
<http://www.saspcan.org.za/>
<http://www.jhbchildwelfare.org.za/>

Overseas

<http://www.netdirectory.co.za/childdirectory.html>
<http://www.calib.com/nccanch/>
<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/>
<http://www.apsac.org/>
<http://www.childabuse.org/>
[\[gkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US\]\(http://gkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US\)
<http://www.child-abuse.com/>
<http://www.jimhopper.com/abstats/>
<http://www.a-b-c.org/>
<http://www.rainn.org/>
<http://www.yesican.org/>
<http://www.efn.org/~scan/home.html>
<http://www.usemb.se/children/csec/>
<http://www.qvctc.commnet.edu/student/LindaCain/sexabuse.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/7836/>
<http://www.pcain.org/getinvolved/volunteeropportunities.htm>
<http://www.angelfire.com/fl2/ChildAbuse/>](http://www.missingkids.org/missin</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Members co-opted on the SAPSAC National Council

Clause 6.10 of the SAPSAC Constitution provides as follows: "In the absence, disability or refusal to act of any member of the National Council, or upon the resignation of any such member, or upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the National Council for whatsoever reason, an appropriate professional member of the Society may be co-opted by the National Council for such period as may be determined by the National Council".

Acting in accordance with this provision, the following persons have been co-opted to serve on the National council: Dr Woltemade Hartman, representing Psychology in the place of Dr Erika Wakeford, who has regrettably moved to Botswana; and Deliwe Menyuko representing Social Work, in the place of Irma Schutte. We welcome them on board and wish their predecessors well. We would appreciate a nomination for a representative of Police for purposes of urgent co-optation. Anyone interested must please contact the Secretary. Alternatively, if you are aware of someone suitable, please inform the Secretary.