

DIGEST OF ETHICS ADVISORY PANEL  
Opinion #88-23, Request #37  
Issued September 22, 1988

An attorney seeks Panel advice as to whether it is proper for him to publish an article on a case he has been handling under certain circumstances. The attorney advises the Panel that he represents some parents in a Family Court case with an unusual twist to it which, he believes, makes the case unique in Rhode Island. The attorney states that his clients have told him that they would like him to publish an article on their case, and that they feel the use of fictitious names would provide sufficient anonymity.

In rendering this decision, the Panel assumes that the Family Court proceedings at issue were closed to the general public, in conformity with Rhode Island Family Court policy and procedure. The Panel takes the position that the attorney may properly publish an article on his clients' case in view of the fact that they have consented and provided that you use fictitious names for people and for specific places to protect the anonymity of the parents and, particularly, any children.

Ethics Advisory Panel advice is protective in nature. There is no requirement that an attorney abide by a Panel opinion, but if he or she does, he or she is fully protected from any charge of impropriety.