

Public Consultation on Proposed Photography Guidelines

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Summary of Major Point

Does the exception for collection of personal data “solely for artistic or literary purposes” also apply to the taking of individuals’ photographs by individual photographers?

Comments

I work in a VWO.

We have photographers, both amateur and professional, who would volunteer their talent to help take pictures of our activities and events where our patients, their families, other volunteers, and members of the public would participate from time to time.

The activities and events are by invitation only so I take it that they would be regarded as private events.

As an organisation, we would post up signs prominently to indicate that photographs will be taken and used for publicity purposes.

However, our photographers, after releasing the photographs to us, may wish to also use some of them for their own portfolio and publicity purposes.

The proposed advisory guidelines states that the photographers would have to separately ask for consent from our participants.

I find this to be a laborious and prohibitive affair for our photographers. My fear is that this may inhibit and demotivate other photographers from volunteering with the organisation that I work with. And we may have to pay for photography services subsequently.

One workaround is to consider photographers as using the pictures taken for artistic or literary purposes.

Conclusion

Proposed advisory on photographers having to ask for separate consent to use photographs taken during private event is restrictive and suppresses creative expression and should be treated as for artistic and literary purposes even for individual photographers.