

Requests for anonymity¹

(Rules 33 and 47 of the Rules of Court)

General principles

The parties are reminded that, unless a derogation has been obtained pursuant to Rules 33 or 47 of the Rules of Court, documents in proceedings before the Court are public. Thus, all information that is submitted in connection with an application in both written and oral proceedings, including information about the applicant or third parties, will be accessible to the public.

The parties should also be aware that the statement of facts, decisions and judgments of the Court are usually published in HUDOC² on the Court's website (Rule 78).

Requests in pending cases

Any request for anonymity should be made when completing the application form or as soon as possible thereafter. In both cases the applicant should provide reasons for the request and specify the impact that publication may have for him or her.

Retroactive requests

If an applicant wishes to request anonymity in respect of a case or cases published on HUDOC before 1 January 2010, he or she should send a letter to the Registry setting out the reasons for the request and specifying the impact that this publication has had or may have for him or her. The applicant should also provide an explanation as to why anonymity was not requested while the case was pending before the Court.

In deciding on the request the President shall take into account the explanations provided by the applicant, the level of publicity that the decision or judgment has already received and whether or not it is appropriate or practical to grant the request.

When the President grants the request, he or she shall also decide on the most appropriate steps to be taken to protect the applicant from being identified. For example, the decision or judgment could, *inter alia*, be removed from the Court's website or the personal data deleted from the published document.

Other measures

The President may also take any other measure he or she considers necessary or desirable in respect of any material published by the Court in order to ensure respect for private life.

1. Practice direction issued by the President of the Court in accordance with Rule 32 of the Rules of Court on 14 January 2010.

2. <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/>