

Libel and other defamations

E-learning course

The law has changed as a result of the 2013 Defamation Act.

The balance in England and Wales has gone towards the right to freedom of speech. What the claimant has to prove has increased and the defences have also increased and been strengthened. As a result, there are fewer libel actions in England and Wales. The 2013 Act is the biggest reform of the libel laws since 1840.

In the Republic of Ireland the old English and Welsh law still pertains, so the balance is towards defence of reputation. And in the Republic of Ireland the laws are very like the old English and Welsh laws. A libel claimant is any person or organisation with a reputation in the jurisdiction of the court. They don't have to be resident there, nor does an organisation have to be registered there. It's possible to take a case from abroad and never come into the country. By looking at the worst case example of the law in Ireland, the Republic and the North, and the law as it is now in England and Wales, our libel e-learning course will show you how to protect your content wherever it is published.

Who it's aimed at and course overview

This course is great for anybody reporting, writing and editing - in any media - who has not been on a libel course before, or who needs a refresher.

Detailed course content and duration

If you sat down and did the course in one sitting, it would take approximately 4-5 hours to complete. However, the exercises and quizzes we include mean it can take longer.

You can work at your own pace, and dip in and out of the course as often as you want, and go back to sections to really make sure you've understood.

If you have any queries at all, you are very welcome to **get in touch with the trainer as often as you want**.

We set a 4 week deadline from the point you receive your enrolment information. If you need longer though, you just need to let us know.

"Have just completed the libel and other defamations course online and thought it was excellent."

Head of activities and opportunities, LSE Students' Union

The course comes in 5 parts:

- Part 1: Introduction to libel and libel in England and Wales.
- Part 2: Ireland: What the claimant has to prove.
- Part 3: Ireland: The defences of fact and comment.
- Part 4: Finals defences in Ireland and procedures.
- Part 5: Other defamations.

You will learn:

- The Defamation Act 2013
- How the law has developed to balance all our various rights
- How to recognise and define libel or defamation
- Why slander isn't the same as libel
- Why quoting someone else won't protect you
- "Off the record" or "on the record"?
- How digital media is stretching the legal system
- How to identify litigious subjects
- The differences between "Opinion" and "Fact"
- How to analyse the reader's point of view
- Your options when it comes to publishing critical content

...and much more.

The course covers:

Introduction to libel in England and Wales

- Libel: a balance of rights - freedom of speech and reputation defence
- Who is involved?
- The claimant
- The defendant
- Definitions of libel
- What defines the meaning of a piece?
- Where it all started and what it now covers
- Which part of the law does it form part of?

The new libel law in England and Wales: the 2013 Act

- The new things the claimant has to prove

New defences

- Substantially true
- Honest comment
- Public interest
- Section 5
- Publication in a peer-reviewed journal

The sequence for a libel action

The law in Ireland

What the claimant has to prove

- Identity, published, defamed
- Who can and can't sue
- Sufficiently published or not?
- The right-minded reader
- What a barrister could make of it

What the claimant doesn't have to prove in Ireland

- How it is different in England and Wales
- How it is different in the USA?
- How long does a claimant have?

The five main defences in Ireland

- Justification
- Honest comment
- Privilege
- Review
- Consent

Procedures for defence in the British Isles

- Negotiations
- Payments into court
- The four levels of damages

Other defamations

- How they fit into defamation

Malicious falsehood

- What it is
- What the claimant has to prove

Slander

- What it is and what media it covers
- The defences

Criminal libel

- Examples and defences

Interactive quizzes, exercises, top tips and checklists

This course is packed with interactive exercises and you will be quizzed on libel; what the claimant has to prove; defences and other defamations.

There are handy tips and checklists at key stages of the course. These cover vital topics including:

- Knowing who is litigious in the subjects you are covering
- Juxtaposition
- What would the reader think
- International comparisons
- Taking care with headlines
- What to do if you get a complaint
- What to do to avoid other defamations

and many more.

Libel and other defamations is a perfect companion to the **Copyright and intellectual property law** course.

If you would like to receive a Certificate when you have completed your e-learning course, please just let us know and we will arrange for one to be sent to you.

Your trainer and feedback



Richard Sharpe is a trainer, journalist, researcher and a director of ContentETC. As a journalist he has contributed to the Financial Times, The Herald Tribune, The Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Observer, Computing, Computer Weekly and other publications covering IT and its impact.

Richard is a highly successful trainer, regularly training journalists at publishing companies including Bauer, Haymarket and TimeInc and coaching executives at organisations including UCLU and LSE.

The beauty of e-learning is that you can do it at a time and place to suit you. But you won't be alone! Richard will talk you through the key points to improve your skills and knowledge, and at any time during your e-learning course, **you can email him with any queries or comments.**

Richard can also give you invaluable **one-to-one feedback** on your own work. If you buy the trainer feedback option with your course, email him your libel queries after you have completed the e-learning and he will supply you with individual guidance, comments and practical suggestions. This unique feedback really brings your e-learning to life and makes sure you have truly grasped - and applied - all of the key principles.

Discounts and prices

Libel and other defamations is £19.99 + tax per user * which gives you full unlimited access to the course for one month. If you need longer though, you just need to let us know.

If you want to add personal one-to-one trainer feedback to the course, the price is £69.99 + tax.

Contact us

Please call us on

00 44(0)1428 722105

to speak to either Lucy, Rosemarie or Elaine about your particular training needs.

Or email us at

info@contentetc.com

and we will get back to you as soon as possible.