

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION FIRST AMENDMENT: PRESS



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



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- Can a public school prevent the student newspaper from running an editorial criticizing the school principal? (Loosely Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988))
- Can the government require that, when newspapers endorse political candidates, they provide equal space to other candidates? (*Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo*, 418 U.S. 241 (1974))
- Can a public school require that the student newspaper endorse, or not endorse, certain political candidates? (Loosely Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)))
- Can the government prevent a radio station from broadcasting an obscene comedy skit, such as George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" or a Dave Chappelle stand-up special? (FCC v. Pacifica Foundation, 438 U.S. 726 (1978))
- If a reporter publishes a story based on information from a whistleblower inside the government, can the government force the reporter to reveal their source? (The Valerie Plame/Judith Miller affair)
- If somebody acquires information illegally and then sends it to a newspaper, can the government punish the newspaper for publishing that information? (*Bartnicki v. Vopper*, 532 U.S. 514 (2001))
- Can the government stop a newspaper from publishing classified information that it has received because of national security concerns? Can it criminally prosecute a newspaper publisher who has done so? (New York Times Co. v. United States, 403 U.S. 713 (1971))
- Can a judge prevent the press from reporting on a criminal defendant's illegally obtained confession, in order to ensure that potential jurors do not hear about the confession? (Nebraska Press Association v Stuart, 427 U.S. 539 (1976))
- Can the government punish online social media sites or internet forums if someone posts unprotected speech, such as a true threat of violence or incitement to imminent violence, on their website? (The Section 230 debate)
- Can a government agency revoke the press pass of reporters from a disfavored news organization? (*Karem v. Trump*, No. 1:19-cv-02514 (D.D.C., Sept. 3, 2019))