

PREFACE

This text aims to provide a comprehensive and accessible introduction to the legal, social, and political issues involving information privacy and the media. The book contains three chapters. Chapter 1 provides a basic introduction to the issues and range of laws that address information privacy. Chapter 2 explores the definition, meaning, and value of privacy. Chapter 3 examines the complex relationship between privacy and the media.

In this text, we focus extensively on tort law and the First Amendment. The defamation and privacy torts have an important impact on media dissemination of personal information. In addition, the First Amendment has a complex relationship to privacy. In many instances, the First Amendment and privacy prove to be mutually reinforcing. For example, privacy is often essential to freedom of assembly. But privacy can also come into conflict with the First Amendment. Protecting privacy can restrict freedom of the press and freedom of speech. It can restrict the media's ability to gather and disclose information. We explore topics such as anti-paparazzi laws, gossip and rumor on blogs and social network websites, and the use of people's names or photographs for commercial purposes, among many other issues.

As the reference above to blogs indicates, we have incorporated material about the new media landscape in this casebook. For example, the Internet presents interesting problems for the application of defamation law and the privacy torts. Previously, it was primarily the mainstream news media that communicated libelous or private information to the public. Today, anybody can disseminate information around the world over the Internet. Rumor and gossip are increasingly spreading through blogs and social network sites. These new forms of media are giving rise to many difficult new problems, which we cover in depth.

We have also included extensive notes and commentary, and we have integrated cases and statutes with theoretical and policy perspectives. To facilitate discussion and debate, we have included excerpts from commentators with a wide range of viewpoints. Technical terms are clearly explained. When selecting cases, we have included the leading cases as well as endeavored to provide a solid historical background and a timely and fresh perspective. We have strived to make this text a lively, thorough, and insightful introduction to the issues of privacy and

the media that is accessible to those studying law, journalism, philosophy, and other fields.

A Note on the Casebook Website. We strive to keep the book up to date between editions, and we maintain a web page for the book with downloadable updates and other useful information. We invite you to visit the website:

<https://informationprivacylaw.com>

A Note on the Editing. We have deleted many citations and footnotes from the cases to facilitate readability. The footnotes that have been retained in the cases have been renumbered.

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