

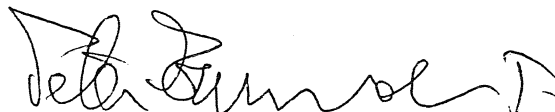


Mrs Bower is the proprietor of a creche. She faces nine charges under s.195 of the Crimes Act of wilfully ill-treating children in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering. She appeals to this Court against a refusal by the District Court to grant an order suppressing her name pending determination of the proceedings against her.

However, this is not the usual situation of someone having been brought before the Court without media publicity in which the person was identified. In fact there was some publicity given to this matter even before Mrs Bower was charged and her name appeared in the newspapers in relation to that. Then, when charges followed, her name was published again in that connection.

As a result of this it is obvious that those to whom she is known will already be well aware of the fact that she is facing these charges. I believe that they will clearly identify the case when it receives further media attention whether or not her name and details actually appear. I have the clear view in this case that the granting of a suppression order would serve no useful purpose. Suppression orders are the exception to the usual rule that justice is done in public and that members of the public are entitled to be aware of matters before the Criminal Courts. A reasonably strong case, therefore, has to be made out for an exceptional order of this kind. Because it would serve no useful purpose, the case is not at all strong.

Accordingly, I dismiss the appeal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Gurnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.