

**CENTRE FOR CHILD LAW REQUESTS THE PROTECTION OF THE IDENTITY OF  
CHILD IDENTIFIED IN PUBLIC AS 'ZEPHANY NURSE'**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 03 March 2015**

The Centre for Child Law is representing the 17 year old girl who has been dubbed 'Zephany Nurse' by media.

Our client is potentially a witness in the criminal matter of kidnapping of which she was the victim. Section 154(3) of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 applies in these circumstances. The section provides that no information which reveals the identity of a witness at criminal proceedings who is under 18 years old should be published.

In addition, our client's Constitutional right to privacy and the right to have her best interests considered of paramount importance, provide a self-standing basis upon which the publication of her identity would be unlawful. We point out in this regard that there is no public interest in the publication of our client's identity. The extensive coverage afforded to this case without our client's name or photograph being published is a clear demonstration that the media can cover this case properly and in full without the publication of our client's details.

We note that the media has not yet published our client's name or any photographs of her. The Centre for Child Law commends this observance of the law. We do have the following concerns:

1. Some media organisations have published the surname of the accused, which is the same as the surname of our client and is therefore information which may reveal her identity. The name of the school she attends has also been published. This is unlawful.
2. We are extremely concerned by the implicit suggestion in certain media reports that when our client turns 18 on 27 April 2015, the media will then consider itself free to reveal her name. Such an approach would be unlawful.
3. The protection afforded to our client by the Constitution, legislation and common law does not terminate when she turns 18. The media would only be

able to identify our client if the presiding judge first granted permission in terms of section 154(3) of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Centre for Child Law requests that the media respect the privacy of our client and urges media houses not to publish any information that reveals or may reveal the identity of our client without an order of court authorising it to do so. This applies both now and after our client turns 18.

**Ends.**

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Contact details for the Centre for Child Law:

**Zita Hansungule at Centre for Child Law:** [zita.hansungule@up.ac.za](mailto:zita.hansungule@up.ac.za)