



GREG SMITH SC
Shadow Attorney General
Shadow Minister for Justice
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Release of victims' names to stalkers another reason to review the bail act

Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Justice Greg Smith SC today said that reports of a child victims' name being released to a person charged with stalking is yet another reason why the Government needs to conduct a full review of the *Bail Act 1978*.

"With more than 14 attempted abductions of children over the last two months, giving a person charged with stalking the details of their victim is unacceptable," Mr Smith said today.

"This dreadful case shows once again why the Attorney General needs to finally heed the calls of the Coalition and undertake a full review of the *Bail Act 1978*," he said.

"Section 36C of the *Bail Act* needs to be amended to ensure that it is consistent with section 11 of the *Children's Criminal Proceeding Act* so that the name of children in court proceedings are not published.

"It is essential that our children are protected from danger and predators and the Labor State Government have failed to ensure this is the case.

"The *Bail Act* is inadequate and needs to be strengthened to ensure that it is clear that the names of children should not be published to alleged offenders.

"In cases such as this it is beyond belief that a person charged with stalking has been given the details of their intended victim when names could have been obscured and initials or a pseudonym used instead.

"With 14 abduction attempts in the last two months it is essential that the Government act urgently to protect our children.

"Only by instituting a proper review of the *Bail Act* and ensuring that the names of victims of crimes aren't released to their would-be assailants can the people of New South Wales have any faith in the safety of our children," Mr Smith said.

ENDS

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