
CHILDREN IN ENTERTAINMENT SUMMARY

June 2008

Introduction

We are guided by the Children & Young Persons Act 1963, Section 18.

The law governing child employment exists to ensure that children are protected and not exploited when involved in entertainment, while still of compulsory school age.

The legislation requires that all children, from babies until they cease to be of compulsory school age, be licensed by the Local Education Authority in which they live (this may not necessarily be the same Local Education Authority as the child's school), to take part in a performance on stage or in a broadcast.

A child whose 16th birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August remain of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June **following** their 16th birthday.

A child, for the benefit of the legislation and these guidance notes, is anyone who is of compulsory school age as outlined above.

Licence Requirements

A licence is required for:

- television work
- performances of a sporting nature
- performances which will require absence from school
- performances abroad
- all assignments which will last for longer than 5 days.

Licence Application

The person responsible for the production of the performance in which the child is taking part is the person who should make the application for a licence and the person responsible for observing the conditions of the licence.

Application forms must be submitted 28 days prior to event from the applicant. Forms available from <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education/information-for-parentscarers/in-school-issues/children-in-entertainment> or by contacting 273 5701.

Education

Whilst the Local Education Authority recognises that performances of this nature are part of a child's life education, it will not permit the formal aspect of the child's education to be compromised. For long engagements the Authority must be satisfied that there is a suitable tutor and arrangements assigned.

Chaperones

Children and young people must be Chaperoned at all times by their individual parent/carer or a registered chaperones to ensure the proper provision is made to secure a child's health, comfort and kind treatment.

Appropriate Facilities

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all facilities are suitable for children and young people. This includes ensuring changing facilities are appropriate, for example:

- Boys and girls changing area separate and chaperone separately
- Children and young people changing areas separate from those of adult performers, with the exception of licensed chaperones.

Maximum Days Permitted To Perform

The times and number of days permitted for performances varies on the type of assignment. Guidance is available upon request.

Dangerous Performances

Naturally, the extent of which a child may be involved in dangerous performances are extremely limited. The question that needs to be asked is what constitutes a 'dangerous performance'. Guidance is available for what constitutes as dangerous performance.

Powers of the Local Education Authority

An authorised officer may at any time during the currency of any licence granted under Section 37 of the Children & Young Persons Act 1963 or relating to training for dangerous performances, enter any premises where the performance or training is authorised to take place and make enquires about any child to whom the licence relates.

The holder of the licence must produce the licence at any reasonable time and place of performance to any police or authorised Officer of the Local Education Authority.

Guidance Available

For more extensive guidance on the issuing and legality of licences please contact 273 5701.
