



Children **in**  
entertainment

Parents  
guide

# Regulations are in force to protect your child whilst they are taking part in a performance.

This guide will give parents more information about the laws that exist to protect the welfare of children and young people whilst they are performing, and prevent them from being exploited.

## Does my child need a licence?

All children under the statutory school leaving age, even babies, need a licence. There are just a few exceptions but if your child will miss school for rehearsals or performances s/he must have a licence.

Your child does not need a licence once s/he is past the official school-leaving age, i.e. after the

last Friday in June of the school year in which s/he is 16 (Year 11)

If your child is involved in anything to do with entertainment and no one has mentioned a licence, get in touch with us and we'll let you know whether your child should be licenced.

If your child performs without a licence when they should have one, then that is illegal. More worrying for you, is that your child may not be covered by insurance if they are injured as a result of an accident that happened at the place of performance.

## What is a performance?

It is up to the Local Authority to decide this and sometimes it is difficult. However 'a performance' will cover a stage show, TV programmes and commercials, films and modelling assignments. It even extends to paid sport.

## **How do I apply for a licence?**

If your child is involved in any show, amateur or professional, including dance shows, the producer should apply to us for the application form for the licence. If your child is registered with an agent, you need to check that the agent or production company is applying for the licence. Even if your child is performing outside Surrey, the licence has to be issued by Surrey County Council. The producer fills in the first part of the form and passes it to you to complete the second part. Once you have filled in your part of the form, you need to give it back to the producer to send to Surrey County Council, together with two photos and a copy of your child's birth certificate. You may also need to provide a medical certificate from your child's doctor. Where appropriate we will check that your child's school has no objection to them being absent. We will send you a copy of the licence once it has been issued.

## **Is there a time limit to apply for a Performance licence?**

Your child needs to have their licence before the performance takes place. The law allows us to ask for 21 days to process a licence application but at most times during the year, we ask for the application to be sent to us at least 7 days before the show starts. We always try our best to issue a licence but sometimes if the licence is very late, we may not be able to do so.

Schools (but not dance schools) are exempt from needing to have licences for school performances.

## **For how many hours can my child take part in a performance?**

There are strict rules about the number of performances a child can take part in per week and for how many hours per day. These vary according to whether the performance is a stage

performance or one recorded for future broadcast such as a film or for television. Please contact the Child Employment Team at Surrey County Council as per the contact details given below to check that your child is performing within the permitted times.

## Who looks after my child whilst they are performing?

All children and young people must be looked after either by their own parent or by a registered matron whilst they are taking part in a performance. You cannot look after another child other than your own (even with parental permission) unless you are a registered matron. If you wish to apply to become a registered matron please contact the Child Employment Team for

an application form. We would urge you to check who is looking after your child and whether they have a valid matrons licence.

This leaflet details the general rules in relation to children taking part in entertainment. Should you require further information please contact:

The Child Employment Team on  
01483 517838 and  
[childemployment@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:childemployment@surreycc.gov.uk) or  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) then **'C'** for Children in Entertainment.

Once there you can download the Children in Entertainment' Booklet for more detailed information.