

A Guide to Licensing for

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE IN ENTERTAINMENT
AND PERFORMANCE**

Information for parents



ATTENDANCE & WELLBEING SERVICE



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR

INTRODUCTION

Many children and young people enjoy performing, whether in plays, films, advertising, on television or in modelling. Parents enjoy supporting them, seeing them succeed and enjoying the experiences they have. There are laws designed to protect children and young people from being exploited and/or harmed and to ensure their health and safety. (Children and Young Person's Act 1963 and the Children (Performances Regulations 1968 and 2000).

Performance licenses are granted by the Local Authority, (the LA) when it is satisfied that:

- Education/health will not suffer
- The place of the performance/rehearsal is appropriate and satisfactory
- The conditions of the licence will be observed
- The child/young person is suitably chaperoned

The LA is empowered to refuse or withdraw a licence if it is not satisfied that the above will be met or if there are concerns for the welfare of your child. In Rhondda Cynon Taf the responsibility for child licensing rests with the Attendance & Wellbeing Service (AWS).

The law applies to all children and young people from birth until the completion of compulsory school i.e. the last Friday in June in the school year in which a child attains the age of 16.

WHAT TYPES OF PERFORMANCE NEED A LICENCE?

All performances

- For which a charge is being made
- Which are staged at licensed premises or a registered club
- That are broadcast or recorded and intended for public exhibition
- Held during the school term

Some examples: - whilst children and young people from dance schools must be licensed to perform in shows, school performances do not need a licence.

All children and young people working as models or auditioning for television shows must be licensed.

MODELLING AGENCIES

When a modelling agency registers a child or young person it is important that parents know that they must be asked to provide the following information **before** any work can be arranged

- A completed (part 2) of a licence application, which is signed by parents
- Two passport-sized photographs
- A copy of your child's birth certificate
- A medical certificate from your child's doctor

When the agency finds your child work the following will also be required

- A completed (part 1) of the licence application which gives the exact details of date, times, location and chaperone arrangements
- If in term time, a letter from the head teacher of your child's school stating that they have no objections

The completed application will then be sent by the agency into the AWS for the licence to be issued. (Fax and email is accepted)

Should your child be registered with more than one agency **each agency** must ask for the above.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Medical confirmation is necessary to ensure that a child/young person is fit and able to take part in the activity requested in the licence and are compulsory for

- Film and television performances
- Performances lasting more than a week when your child is expected to perform for six days during that week (five for sound broadcast)
- Each month for performances that run for more than four weeks

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The licence holder (agent/agency/production company) is responsible for making sure that there are suitable arrangements in place for a child/young person to be returned home or to another pre arranged and agreed destination at the end of the performance/rehearsal each day and when making such arrangements consider the age of the child.

CHAPERONES

The Children (Performance) Regulations 1968 and 2000 (as amended) state that children taking part in performances must be supervised by a chaperone (parents can and generally do chaperone their children). The LA may think it appropriate that children be taught during the period they are missing school. The named licence holder employs the chaperone and is responsible for keeping them fully advised of all arrangements made for those children and young people in their care.

Broadcast or recording performances

	Age		
	9 years and over	5 years and over	Under 5 years
Maximum hours at place of performance or rehearsal	9.5 hours	7.5 hours	5 hours
Earliest/latest times at place of performance or rehearsal	7.00 am - 7.00pm	9.00 am - 4.30pm	9.00 am - 4.30pm
Maximum period of continuous performance or rehearsal	1 hour	45 minutes	30 minutes
Maximum number of hours for performance or rehearsal	4 hours	3 hours	3 hours

PERFORMANCES ABROAD

No child /young person is permitted to travel abroad (outside GB and Northern Ireland) to perform without a licence granted for the purpose by a local authority Justice of the Peace (JP). Notice is also given to the district Chief Police Officer.

MAXIMUM DAYS PERMITTED TO PERFORM

A child/young person may not take part in a performance, or rehearsal on more than:

- five days in any seven day period for broadcast or recorded performances.
- six days in any seven day period for other performances.

For a combination of broadcast/recorded and other performances, the limit for a child's performance is as per broadcast and recorded performance.

PERMITTED HOURS OF PERFORMANCE

The hours differ slightly between broadcast/recorded performances and stage performances:-

Stage

	Age	
	Under 13 years	13 years and over
Earliest/latest times at the place of performance or rehearsal	10.00am - 10.00pm	10.00am - 10.30pm

A child/young person must not take part in a performance that lasts more than three and a half hours.

A child/young person's part or total appearances must not exceed two and a half hours per performance.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once a licence is approved it will be forwarded to the applicant (production company/agent/agency) and a copy sent to parents. If your child is performing outside Rhondda Cynon Taf then a copy is also sent to that authority's licensing department for their information.

The LA can visit locations to check that they are suitable and that children and young people are being looked after properly.

Documentation such as medical certificates are valid for six months. It will then be destroyed safely and in accordance with local authority regulations.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on children in entertainment, please contact:

Attendance & Wellbeing Service,

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council,

Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon,

Mountain Ash, CF45 4SN

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