

**A Guide to Licensing for**

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

**Information for parents  
and production companies**



**ATTENDANCE & WELLBEING  
SERVICE**

## INTRODUCTION

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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 (Performance) Regulations 2015).

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?

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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.**

## LICENCE APPLICATION

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The licence application must be accompanied by:-

- Two recent passport-sized photographs of the child;
- Proof of the child's date of birth (copy of birth certificate or back page of valid passport);
- Health declaration form;
- Letter from the child's headteacher agreeing to the child's absence from school and/or confirming that the proposed performances will not be detrimental to the child's education;
- Production company's safeguarding policy;
- Production company's risk assessment.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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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

Children (Performance) Regulations 2015 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		
	Birth to < 5 years	5 to < 9 years	9 to 16 years
Maximum hours at a place of performance or rehearsal	5 hours	8 hours	9.5 hours
Earliest/latest times at place of performance or rehearsal	7 am - 10 pm	7am - 11pm	7am - 11pm
Maximum period of continuous performance or rehearsal	30 minutes	2.5 hours	2.5 hours
Maximum number of hours for performance or rehearsal	2 hours	3 hours	5 hours

## **PERFORMANCES ABROAD**

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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.

## **LENGTH OF TIME PERFORMING**

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A child can take part in performances (including rehearsals) for no more than six days in a row, in order to give them time to recover and to allow them time away from the production. This can continue for no more than eight weeks. If a child works for this maximum time, they must have a minimum break of fourteen days before their next performance. This rule will not apply if the child's licence specifies fewer than 60 days of performance. However, the authority can decide to limit the length of time performing for any child through conditions on the licence if it feels that the schedule would affect their education or wellbeing.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

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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.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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For further information on children in entertainment, please contact:

**Attendance & Wellbeing Service,**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council,

Ty Trevithick, Abercynon,

Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ

**Tel:** 01443 744298 • **Fax:** 01443 744230

**Email:** [aws@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:aws@rctcbc.gov.uk)