

Children in entertainment factsheet

Issued by Worcestershire County Council

- **Any child who takes part in a performance or activity which is subject to relevant legislation requires a licence to do so from the local authority in whose area they reside**, unless the conditions for an exemption from licensing are met.
- The licensing legislation applies from birth until a child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they have their sixteenth birthday.
- A **performance** involving children comes under the licensing legislation if **any one** of the following criteria is met
 - an admission charge is made for the performance.
 - the performance takes place on premises licensed for the sale of alcohol.
 - the performance is live broadcast.
 - the performance is recorded for use in a broadcast or in a film intended for public exhibition.
- The **activities of paid modelling and paid sport** are also subject to the licensing legislation. If a performance is given under arrangements made by a school ("school" within the meaning of the Education Act 1996), it falls outside the licensing legislation altogether.
- A **licence application** must be made to the child's home local authority by the person responsible for the production of the performance, or responsible for organizing the activity, in which the child is to take part.

An **exemption from licensing** may be granted if the following conditions are met (in which case Worcestershire County Council still requires an exemption application to be made for any children from its area):

- no payment (apart from expenses) is made to the child or other person in respect of the child's participation **and**
- by taking part the child will not have performed on more than four days in a six-month period, including performances for other organizations that would have been subject to the relevant legislation **and**
- if the child attends a local authority maintained school, no school absence is required for the performance

If a child has been **licensed** to take part in a performance, they have to be supervised at the performance by their own parent, or a teacher from the school which ordinarily provides their education, or a person who has been approved for that role by a local authority: that person is known as a **chaperone**. Worcestershire County Council has a process for approving people who reside in the county and wish to undertake the chaperone role.

For any queries about child performance licensing for Worcestershire children, chaperone approval, or for copies of the performance licence and exemption application forms, please contact: Ben Westwood (Child Employment and Entertainment Officer)

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