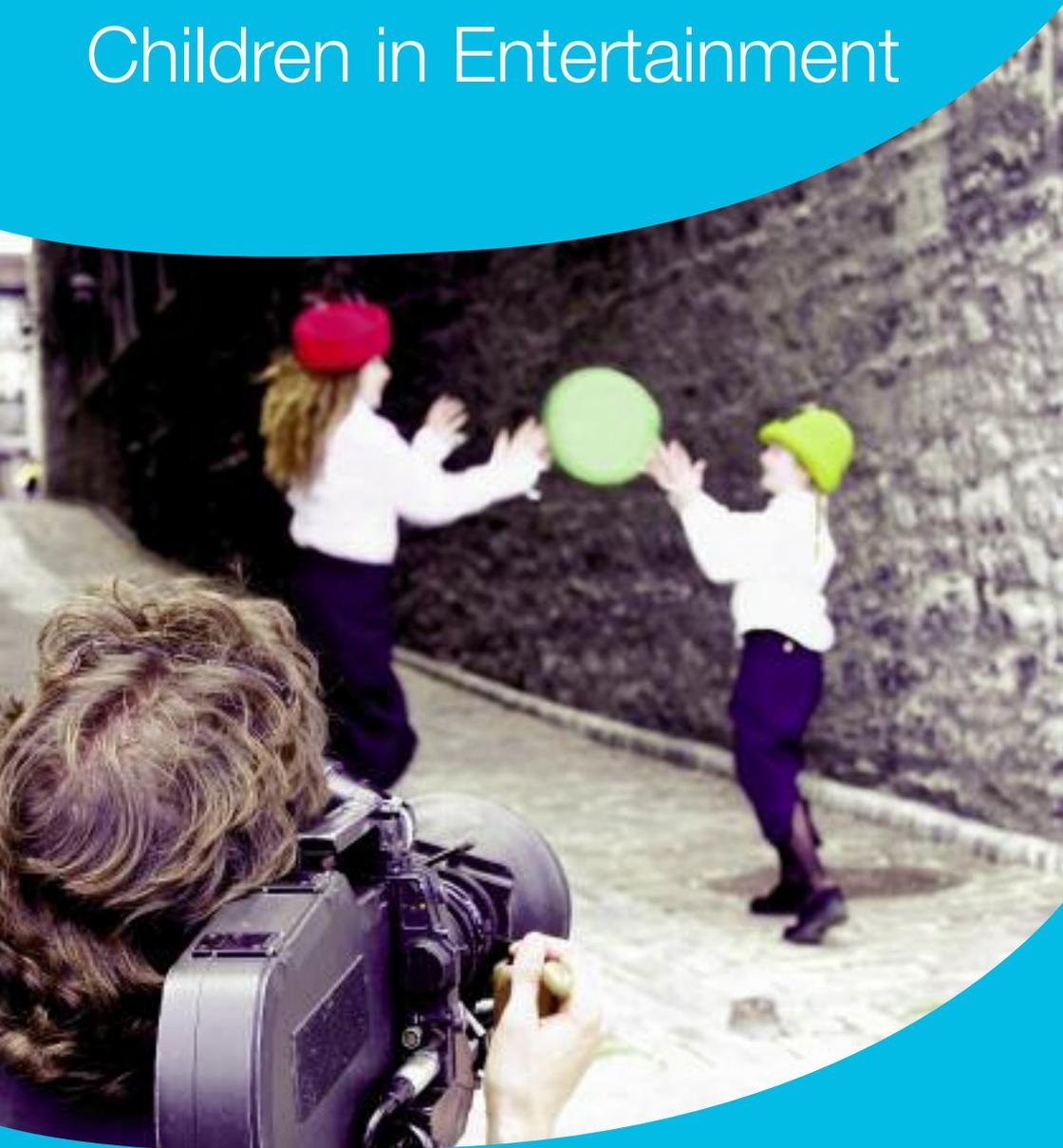




North

Yorkshire County Council

Children in Entertainment



Children and Young People's Service

A responsive County Council providing excellent and efficient local services

Introduction

Many children enjoy performing, whether in plays, films, and advertising or on television and parents enjoy supporting them. However, laws exist which are designed to protect children's welfare and prevent them from being exploited. (Children & Young Persons Act 1963 and the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968). The Licensing Authority (Local Authority [LA]) must be satisfied that:

- The child's education will not suffer;
- His or her health will not suffer;
- The place of performance/rehearsal is satisfactory; and that
- The conditions of the licence will be observed.

The LA can refuse a licence if it is not satisfied the above will be met.

Staff at the Education Office in Harrogate are responsible for licensing children who live in North Yorkshire and who perform in a range of entertainments. If you require any further information please contact the telephone number on the reverse of this booklet.

Does the child need a licence?

The law applies to all children from birth until completion of compulsory schooling which is the last Friday in June during the school year in which the child reaches the age of 16.

What type of performances need a licence?

Any performance:

- When a charge is made;
- At a licensed premises or a registered club;
- Recorded with a view to its use in a broadcast, or film intended for public exhibition.

Licences may be issued for:

- Children employed in paid modelling work, photographic or catwalk work;
- Children working in paid/professional sport; and
- Children in entertainment – performing on stage or in television in activities such as films or commercials.

What type of performances do not need a licence?

1. If a child does not perform on more than four days in any period of six months (providing that there is no absence from school and they are not being paid).
2. A performance put on by a body of persons who has been approved by the Secretary of State or the Local Authority providing there is no absence from school and no payment is being made to the child or any other person and the performance is taking place in North Yorkshire.
3. A school performance.
4. Any activity which the Local Authority does not consider to be a performance.

Even where a licence is not required we still prefer to keep a register of children taking part in a performance as the rules and regulations still apply.



Why have a licence?

A licence is issued for a child to take part in a performance. The licence states the conditions which must be observed to ensure the child's safety and well-being.

No child will be able to be absent from school for a performance without a licence.

School performances

Schools (but not dance schools) do not need to have licences, except where your child may be involved in commercial work outside normal school activities.



Modelling

North Yorkshire do not issue six month licences for modelling work. Instead we issue a full licence for each performance or 'shoot' as and when it is required.

If agents register your child on their books for modelling work they may ask for the following information before any work has been arranged:

- A completed Part Two of the licence signed by the parent or guardian;
- Two passport sized photographs;
- A copy of your child's birth certificate.

The agent will forward this information to us and we will keep this on file for six months.

When agents obtain work for a child they must provide North Yorkshire with:

- a) A fully completed Part One of the licence application form, including the exact details of the location and date of activity; and
- b) A fully completed Part Three of the application (or a letter from the head teacher stating that they have no objections to a licence being issued).

These details can be faxed to the Education Office and we will try to issue the licence as quickly as possible.

A child could have their name registered at more than one agency, and each agency may ask for the above information. A licence will only be issued if your child is offered work as we need to know the exact details before we can issue a licence.



Maximum days permitted to perform

A child may not take part in a performance, or rehearsal, on more than five days in any seven day period for broadcast or recorded performance.

A child may not take part in a performance, or rehearsal, on more than 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 for no more than five days in any seven day period.

Permitted hours of stage performance

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

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

Or half an hour after the last appearance whichever is the earlier.

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

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

A child must only appear in one performance or rehearsal on any day that they attend school.

Broadcast or recording performances

Age	Under 5 yrs	5 – 8yrs	9 yrs and over
Maximum hours at place of performance or rehearsal	5 hours	7.5 hours	9.5 hours
Earliest/latest times at place of performance or rehearsal	9.30am – 4.30pm	9.00am – 4.30 pm	7.00am – 7.00 pm
Maximum period of continuous performance or rehearsal	30 minutes	45 minutes	1 hour
Maximum number of hours for performance or rehearsal	2 hours	3 hours	4 hours

Medical requirements

In order to ensure that a child is medically fit to take part in a performance North Yorkshire may require a letter from the child's G.P. stating she/he is fit to perform.

A medical is compulsory for:

- Film or television performances
- Performances lasting more than a week in which your child is expected to perform for six days during that week (five days for sound broadcast);
- Every month for performance runs lasting more than four weeks.
- Medical Certificates are required with applications for children wishing to take part in licensed performances in any television or film work, regardless of any number of days, or half days under the conditions of the licence.
- For broadcast performances, such as radio productions, a child can perform on no more than 6 days in a six month period without the need for medical.



Is there a time limit?

It is essential that your child obtains his/her licence before the performance takes place, therefore we ask for the application to be sent to us at least three weeks before the show or rehearsals are due to start. We always try our best to issue a licence but sometimes, if the application is very late, we may not be able to issue a licence for your child's performance.

Travel arrangements

The licence holder should make sure that suitable arrangements are made for the child to be returned home, or to another agreed destination, after the last performance or rehearsal on each day.

A child's age should be taken into account when making these arrangements and the arrangements must be suitable for the age of the child.

Chaperones must be kept fully advised of all arrangements made for children in their care.



Performances abroad

Licences are not required for children under 14 years of age. No child 14 years and over is permitted to go abroad (outside Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for the purpose of:

- Singing;
- Playing;
- Modelling;
- Performing; or
- Taking part in any broadcast or recording to be used in a film for public exhibition.

Unless

..... a licence has been granted for this purpose by a Justice of the Peace, sitting at a Magistrates' Court within the area of where the child normally lives.

Notice of the intended application must be given to the Chief Officer of the Police for the district in which the child lives, at least seven days before the application is heard. The magistrate shall not grant the licence unless they are satisfied that the notice has been properly given.



What happens next?

The application will be submitted to North Yorkshire and if approved a licence will be issued to you. North Yorkshire holds information such as:

- Name, address, date of birth, school attended;
- Name of person applying for licence; and
- Name, place and dates of performance.

The licence

If approved, the licence is sent to the person whose name is on the front of the form, (normally the producer). A copy is sent to the parent/guardian.

If a child is performing outside North Yorkshire, a copy of the licence will also be sent to the appropriate authority where the performance is taking place.

Can a licence be withdrawn?

Yes, if we are worried about the welfare of a child. We work closely with producers, chaperones, parents and schools so that children can maximise their opportunities. However, a child's welfare is of paramount importance.

Visits to performances

We do have a duty to inspect places where children are performing to check that they are suitable and that the children are being looked after appropriately. If the performance is outside North Yorkshire, the LA for that area will make the inspection. Whilst we cannot visit every venue, we do try to visit as many as possible.

Chaperones

The Children (Performances) Regulations 1968 (as amended) state that in certain circumstances, children taking part in entertainment must be supervised by a chaperone or a parent (reg.12.1) and, if the LA think fit (reg.10.1), must be taught by a suitable teacher (reg.10.3c).

The licence holder will be the employer of the chaperone.

Can I take my own child to a modelling assignment?

Yes, as a parent/Guardian you can be the person responsible for your child if you do not want a chaperone to be in charge.

You should stay with your child at all times, even during a photo 'shoot'.

Is a child performance licence required?

