

Working with child performers

Coronavirus has impacted our industry, there are additional guidelines and protocols to follow to ensure production can continue safely. For Covid-19 specific guidance on filming and other related matters, please visit our guidance webpage [here](#)

If you plan to work with children under the compulsory school leaving age you will usually require a Child Performance License. We would advise any production to get in contact with the relevant local authority ASAP.

Child Performance Licenses are issued by the child's local authority education department where the child lives. The license issued will be specific to the child's age and needs to then dictate the hours they are permitted to work, any special steps or any other requirements.

The primary legislation for the employment of child actors is The Children and Young Persons Act [1933](#) and [1963](#) along with additional simplified and a streamlined secondary legislation that came into effect in February 2015; [The Children \(Performances and Activities\) \(England\) Regulations 2014](#)

Timescales

You must allow a minimum of **21 day notice** when applying for a Child Performance License. Local authorities can insist on this timeframe so you must wherever possible ensure you give 21 day notice.

When a license is required

- Any broadcast performance to include internet streaming.
- Any performance recorded with a view to use in a broadcast or intended for public exhibition. i.e. live stage performance, feature films, radio, commercials, sport and modelling.

Documentation required for the license

An application for licence must be made in writing by the person responsible for the production in which the child is taking part.

- Part 1 of the application should be completed by the person responsible i.e producer or production company
- Part 2 should be completed by the parent or legal guardian of the child

It must be signed by both the applicant and the parent or legal guardian of the child

You may also need to include;

- (a) A copy of the child's birth certificate (scanned copies are acceptable)
- (b) Two identical photographic files of the child taken during the last 6 months
- (c) A copy of the contract, draft contract or other documents (where they exist) containing details of the agreement regulating the child's participation in the performance or activity to which this application relates.
- (d) A doctor's or medical certificate

Further guidance

[National Network for Children in Employment & Entertainment \(NNCEE\)](#)

[NNCEE Guide to Child Performance Licensing](#)