



Info for Parents of Child Performers

In Ontario, a child performer is less than 18 years of age.

Advice

- 1) Protect your child's (and your own) personal information. Don't post home address or phone information on any websites or on resumes.
- 2) When selecting a talent agent for your child to work with, do your homework. Ask lots of questions and talk to other performers about their experiences working with the agent you are considering. (Remember, your agent works for you!)
- 3) Before accepting an engagement, know the script. Take note of potential health and safety risks as well as any scenes that might cause emotional or psychological stress.
- 4) Workers in Ontario, including child performers, have the right to refuse work that they feel might endanger themselves or others. No child performer can be required to do work activities or to work in an environment where the child's health or safety may be endangered.

What You Should Expect

- 5) Auditions should be booked outside of school hours.
- 6) Child performers, parents and chaperones must be given orientation training to the workplace.
- 7) Child performers, parents and chaperones must be made aware of the potential hazards on and off set, emergency procedures, and other measures to protect health and safety.
- 8) Hours of work must be appropriate to the age of the performer (ACTRA child performers under 12 years of age work no more than 8 hours in a day).
- 9) Child performers must have regular food and rest breaks for each hour of work.
- 10) Productions must engage a minor's co-ordinator to deal with all matters related to child performers. Make sure the co-ordinator knows about any food allergies or sensitivities.
- 11) Male and female child performers should have separate dressing rooms, and should never be left alone with only one person without their parent or chaperone present.

What's Expected of You

- 12) Children under the age of 16 must always be accompanied by their parent, guardian, or an adult chaperone, whether it is to an audition, a rehearsal or to work on set.
- 13) Parents or chaperones should be accessible to the child performer at all times: on-set, to and from set, to and from hair, make-up and wardrobe.

For more information, go to Ministry of Labour Safety Guidelines for the Film and Television Industry in Ontario: <http://www.filmsafety.ca>.

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