

Parent/ Chaperone Duties & Agreement (as provided to parents)

Please refer to the accompanying documents around child protection etc on our website at <https://www.southdevonplayers.com/governance-documents.html>

The law is extremely strict regarding child performers/ creatives (aged under 16). Please refer to <https://www.nncee.org.uk> and <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-child-performance-licence> for more information.

In practice, this means, within South Devon Players, that each child (person aged under 16) appearing in our shows and their parent, must, by law, comply with the following actions. This is not only overseen by our production teams, but is also confirmed and spot-checked by venue staff when we are on tour. Failure to meet these guidelines are likely to mean that a production is closed down.

Therefore, when a child performer / crew member becomes involved with us, the company has the following requirements of the child and parents/ chaperone.

- A role offer made to a child actor/ creative must be confirmed, and contracts signed by the child's parent or legal guardian.
- The company has to then apply to the local authority where the child usually resides, for a child actor licence. The child's parent will be required to fill in parts of the form, and to supply a photograph of the child, a copy of their birth certificate, and a letter of permission from the child's school if the performances affect schooling time, to accompany the form to the child's Local Authority. If the licence cannot be applied for or granted, the child cannot be involved in the production.
- The child's parent or legal guardian is required to be fully familiar with the conditions stated in the licence and around child actor laws, as well as to ensure that they follow those conditions and requirements.
- The child's parent or legal guardian will accompany the child to, and remain with them at, each rehearsal and performance for which the child is required. Other actors and crew cannot be designated as chaperones/ transport for the child.
- The child's parent or legal guardian will keep the child in their line of sight at all times including accompanying them between the stage and changing areas, and waiting side stage for them during performances. The parent or legal guardian cannot drop the child off and then leave, or depart the space on errands (example: going shopping/ going to sit in car to read a book).
- If the child requires help dressing or changing costumes, the child's parent or legal guardian is the person who must assist them
- The law states that only a child's parent or legal guardian can act as their chaperone, unless a professional chaperone is engaged. Other family members or friends cannot undertake this unless they are themselves licenced as child chaperones.
- If, during rehearsals, the child's parent or legal guardian needs to bring another sibling with them, for childcare reasons etc, that is absolutely fine as long as the sibling remains with the parent/ guardian, and is not disruptive to the rehearsal/ work in progress.
- The child's parent or legal guardian cannot consume alcohol while chaperoning a child in our shows.
- The child's parent or legal guardian may choose to engage a licenced professional child chaperone for the majority of the tasks above (excluding the contracts and child licence applications).
If a parent or legal guardian chooses to do so, this is entirely at the cost of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the chaperone must be fully licenced as such. The South Devon Players will need to retain a copy or photograph of the chaperone's licence.

- If a parent (eg the mother) usually accompanies her children to rehearsals or performances, but the other parent (eg the father) needs to accompany the children on some of the days instead, it is required that the other parent is also fully aware of, and adheres to these regulations as well.

- If the parents or legal guardian(s) are unable or unwilling to adhere to these requirements, then the child cannot rehearse or perform with our company, as the South Devon Players and production teams therein, are not, under any circumstances, or in any manner, to be asked, or expected, to break the laws on child protection.

- The child will be expected to attend, perform, take direction, be well mannered, and work professionally in the same manner as the adults. The South Devon Players is not a children's club but is a professionally touring company.

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