

# CREATIVE AMBITIONS

## CB2W

### COVID-19-19 BROADCAST CHILD LICENCING APPLICATION FORM

The Children and Young Person Acts 1933 and 1963  
The Children (Performances and Activities) (England)  
Regulations 2014

We (Licensing Authorities, Regional Chairs, Casting Agents, Chaperones, Tutors, PART Accredited Training) have taken this opportunity to review the current Broadcast Child Licence Application Form. This is to support everyone going forward as we review all our practices in the entertainment industry, in an endeavor to facilitate us all getting back to work in a considered way with safeguarding for all at the forefront.

What we hope this document will achieve is to ensure that production does not fall unwittingly between any cracks. We also hope to support local authorities in an endeavor to restart children's licensing.

By ensuring continuity and standardisation of processes and documentation between authorities, our aim is to speed up the licensing processes or at least keep to the 21-day timelines. This we hope will also avoid a postcode lottery, where children are not being cast due to their authorities either not licensing or taking too long to exercise their processes.

#### **What are the fundamental changes?**

- Addition of Covid-19 Risk Assessment Questionnaire to assist LA's to access just the pertinent information from each production company. This is beneficial because each production will all have their own Covid-19 policies written in different formats and will be of varying length, comprehensiveness, and layout, which will take time for LA's to work through.
- Update to some language and created more user-friendly questions.
- Addition of compliance notes for production, to support those who do not understand regulatory compliance and find accessing the information difficult as councils vary with their advice. Facilitating production engagement with the regulations will cover them for council spot checks and clarify how the regulations need to be applied and why.

- Additional question around the elected safeguarding officer. Appropriate training will support effective interprofessional safeguarding best practice. One example of how a lack of transparency and appropriate disclosure can leave both a child/young person and a production vulnerable relates to a recent shoot where I had to meet the S.O to hand over and discuss a disclosure that a child had made on a shoot. On doing this I was concerned to find that the SO had previously had 2 disclosures from cast members and crew re this child's behaviour and no action had been taken. At no point did the S.O decide to share this information with me and the disclosure that I presented was actually connected. It appears that the absolute necessity of effective, appropriate communication and transparency in safeguarding may not have been fully understood, which justifies the addition of the supportive role of HOD for regulatory compliance whilst avoiding any potential production conflict of interest as this role has no other responsibility.

This example also highlights the need for any S.O working with this H.O.D to have safeguarding training. \*Please note that GDPR does not apply to safeguarding concerns.

*\*In relation to **Safeguarding**, **GDPR** does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping **children** safe. Legal and secure information sharing between schools, **children's** social care and other local agencies is essential for keeping **children** safe and ensuring they get the support they need.*

- Creation of H.O.D. for child performance regulatory compliance This role would provide proactive support to production by exclusively monitoring all issues related to compliance, advising on issues relating to script content, creating risk assessments as appropriate and being available in prep in order to guide and support budgetary decisions .

### **What are possible issues and challenges?**

- To alleviate any concerns regarding granting permission to 'miss' school , thereby allowing children back to work, we have added a large section for schools to complete that outlines the regulations, so they can see education will be personalised and conducted by qualified providers. It also details how to mark school registers to support their attendance targets and connects them to the tutors, production and councils.

- At present parents ask for a letter for school permission but this has been lacking in supportive information. We have removed the option for parents to access the school letter as we have had notice from councils that parents have been creating these themselves from home.
- Any child or young person who remains on the school roll but is educated off site , including if a parent is directed to or choses to educate at home under the overall direction of a school, MUST have a school permission letter. Elective home education (EHE), commonly known as home-schooling, is NOT the same thing and gives a parent/legal guardian full legal responsibility for compulsory education. Once informed, the school is obliged to inform the local authority of children removed from its admission register and will give home education as the reason.

This document has been collated over the last week in hope that the Industry are able to see its value, with regards to the support required as we navigate this challenging landscape.

Understanding that our private lives and working relationships will not be as they were, but hope to confront these new challenges with both grace and strength together.

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With thanks from:

Yorkshire and Humberside Authorities Regional Chair

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Qualified Teacher Status/Associate member of The Dyslexia Guild FE/HE

Casting Agents various

Chaperones Various