



SHAPE SAFETY BULLETIN #33A

(Safety & Health In Arts Production & Entertainment)

SAFE WORK GUIDELINES WHEN EMPLOYING CHILD ACTORS

1. RIGHT TO REFUSE:

The utmost emphasis must be placed on the need to provide a safe and healthy working environment for Children employed in the Film, Television and Commercial Industry. No Child shall be required to work in a situation which places the Child in danger to life or limb, is unsafe or unhealthy, or if the Child or parent/guardian has an honestly held belief that the Child is in such a situation.

Circumstances which may place the Child in an actual or perceived situation which is dangerous, unsafe or unhealthy may include:

a. **Dangerous Situations**

If the Child or parent/guardian believes the Child would be in danger, the parent/guardian shall request an immediate consultation with the Employer's representative and/or stunt coordinator. The situation will be reviewed and discussed with the parent/guardian and Child.

b. **Stunts**

The Employer must secure the written consent of the parent/guardian before any Child may perform a stunt. A Child may refuse in spite of consent.

c. **Work with Animals**

A Child shall not be required to work with an animal which a reasonable person would regard as dangerous in the circumstances. The employer must ensure that an animal handler or trainer qualified by training and/or experience is present and such handler or trainer can guarantee the safety of the Child.

2. PHYSICAL, ATHLETIC OR ACROBATIC ACTIVITY

When the Child is asked to perform physical, athletic or acrobatic activity of an extraordinary nature, the Child's parent/guardian shall be advised of the activity prior to the engagement of the Child. If, in the parents'/guardian's opinion, the Child is fully capable of performing such activity, the parent/guardian must expressly inform the Employer's representative that the Child is fully capable.

3. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The Employer will comply with any reasonable request from the Child or parent/guardian for equipment that may be needed for the safety of the Child.

4. CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN SCENES DEPICTING CHILD ABUSE OR CARNAL ACTS

If a Child is employed to perform in a scene that depicts Child abuse, nudity or carnal acts, the Employer shall consult with the parent/ guardian and make available to the Child and his/her parent/guardian a qualified mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker) to assist the Child in preparing for participating in any such depiction. A Child shall not be present during such scenes unless it is essential for the Child to be on-camera.

Safety Bulletins Are Recommended Guidelines Only; Consult All Applicable Rules and Regulations

