

Musical Theatre New Zealand Recommendations in regard to the Protection of Minors in the theatre industry

1. A person aged 16 years and under is a minor/juvenile in the theatre/entertainment industry.
2. It is recommended that a parental/guardian consent slip on the audition form be signed before anyone aged 16 years and under is allowed to audition.
3. It is recommended that a Society should appoint a Children's Co-ordinator who is responsible for chaperoning minors during all rehearsals and show times – this includes ensuring an authorized person, parent or guardian collects their charge at the end of each session. One chaperone is required per five minors. This Children's Co-ordinator also acts as a point of contact for both parents/ guardian and production personnel regarding all information, or concerns, to do with the Society's production.
4. It is recommended that a Society should provide a health profile questionnaire and parental/guardian consent form which is handed or sent to parents/guardians before the start of rehearsals. These forms must be filled in, signed, and handed in at the start of the first rehearsal. As they can contain personal information they will be held by the Children's Co-ordinator for the duration of the show and destroyed immediately afterwards.
5. Cast and crew members under the age of 16 are always welcome to attend the first and last night parties, but they are the responsibility of their parents/guardian, who are expected to attend and if unable to do so, will still be their responsibility.
6. No alcohol will be given or sold to any minors, non alcoholic beverages will be provided.
7. For general safety of all cast and crew members, it is recommended that a Society have a sign in /out sheet at the stage door which is the responsibility of the Stage Door Manager or the Stage Manager.

8. Should anyone have any concerns around any inappropriate behaviour or actions of others, the Production Manager is to be advised and it will be dealt with by the Society Executive/Board/Committee.
9. For health and safety reasons, it is recommended that any minors under the age of 15 must not be in the work environment during a fit up or pack out.
10. Further information with regard to productions utilizing the engagement of minors in the entertainment industry can be found in A Guide For SAFE WORKING PRACTICES IN THE NEW ZEALAND THEATRE & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, on the ETNZ website www.etnz.org (page 79)

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For further information or clarification on any of the recommendations above, please contact John Antony, President – 021-774-400 or kate@musical.org.nz