

# Actsafes Safety Bulletin #33a

## 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.

British Columbia's Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services document Best Practices for Employment of Young People in the Entertainment Industry can be found online at:

[http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb/chldflm/best\\_practices.htm](http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb/chldflm/best_practices.htm)