

Child Performance Licensing

Guidance for RTWDF Entrants

Since **The Children (Performance and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014** (The New Regulations) were introduced in February 2015 there has been a huge amount of confusion surrounding child performance licensing. There is a level of inconsistency demonstrated across the various local authorities when applying the legislation.

The New Regulations provide the new framework under which a licence or a valid exemption can be issued. Having considered the regulations, Kent County Council (KCC) has determined that a child age under 16 dancing at RTWDF falls under this legislation.

Therefore, RTWDF will be applying to KCC for a Body of Persons Approval (BOPA) for the duration of the Festival. A BOPA removes the need for every child to apply for a performance licence and it is granted to the organisation that is responsible for the event – in this case RTWDF.

KCC will be asking for RTWDF to collect certain information about each child (aged under 16) who is entered for the festival, including the names, dates of birth, home addresses (or at least postcodes) and schools attended. KCC may share this information to the home local authorities of any children who are performing at the festival from another area. After on-line entry has closed, RTWDF will be contacting schools and requesting the above information.

As a dance school entering competitors into the Festival you will be required to contact KCC and either apply for a BOPA in your own right, apply for an exemption or a child licence – full details are available at the following website:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/activities-outside-school/children-in-entertainment>

Private entries who are not affiliated with particular school will need to apply for an individual child performance licence from their local authority.

We look forward to your co-operation with this matter and wish all our competitors a safe and enjoyable festival.

RTWDF Committee
August 2016