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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**1996 No. 481**

**Children (Public Performances)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996**

**Part VI**

**Broadcast and recorded performances**

**Licences to which Part VI applies**

**26.** The restrictions and conditions specified in this Part shall apply in the case of every licence authorising a child to take part in a broadcast performance or a performance to be recorded (by whatever means) with a view to its use in a broadcast or a film intended for public exhibition.

**Maximum number of days in a week on which a child may take part in performances and rehearsals**

**27.** Where in any period of seven days a child takes part in performances or rehearsals to which this Part applies or to some of which this Part applies and to others of which Part V applies, he shall not take part in such performances or rehearsals on more than five days in that period.

**Limitation on daily performances**

**28.** On any day a child may take part only in performances or rehearsals which are of the same nature and in which he performs the same part or takes the place of another performer in the same performance.

**Children aged thirteen years or over**

**29.—(1)** Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), a child of thirteen years or over shall not be present at a place of performance or rehearsal—

- (a) for more than eight hours a day;
- (b) before nine in the morning or after seven in the evening, except that a child may be present after half-past eight in the morning if on the preceding day he was not present after half-past six in the evening.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) where the holder of the licence is a person listed in regulation 5(3) a child who is thirteen years or over may—

- (a) be present in any week at a place of performance or rehearsal between the hours of ten in the morning and ten in the evening—
  - (i) for not more than twelve hours on any one day, or
  - (ii) for not more than ten hours a day on any two days, or
  - (iii) for not more than eight hours a day on any three days,

if he is not present at a place of performance or rehearsal on any other day in that week and has not been present at a place of performance or rehearsal after seven in the evening on more than twenty days during the preceding twelve months; or

- (b) be present on one day in any week at a place of performance or rehearsal for not more than twelve hours between the hours of ten in the morning and ten in the evening, provided that—
  - (i) he is not present at the place of performance or rehearsal for more than four hours on any other day in that week;
  - (ii) he does not take part in a performance or rehearsal for a total period of more than two hours on any other day in that week;
  - (iii) he does not take part in a performance or rehearsal on the day immediately following the day on which he has been present at the place of performance or rehearsal after seven in the evening in accordance with this paragraph; and
  - (iv) he has not been present at a place of performance or rehearsal after seven in the evening in accordance with this paragraph on any day during the six preceding days.
- (3) A child who is thirteen years or over shall not take part in a performance or rehearsal on any day—
  - (a) for a continuous period of more than one hour without an interval for rest;
  - (b) for a total period of more than three and a half hours.
- (4) A child of thirteen years or over shall not be present at a place of performance or rehearsal—
  - (a) for more than four consecutive hours without there being two or more intervals of which one shall be for the purpose of a meal and shall be of not less than one hour and the other or others shall be for the purpose of rest and shall not be less than fifteen minutes;
  - (b) for more than eight consecutive hours without there being three or more intervals of which two shall be for the purposes of meals and shall each be of not less than one hour and the other or others shall be for the purpose of rest and shall not be less than fifteen minutes.
- (5) In calculating the number of hours on any day during which a child is present at a place of performance or rehearsal, there shall, in the case of a child for whom arrangements for his education by a private teacher have been approved by the licensing authority, be included any periods of education taken into account for the purpose of complying with the requirements of regulation 12(4), whether or not they take place at the place of performance or rehearsal.

### **Children aged five years to twelve years**

- 30.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), a child of five years but under thirteen years shall not be present at a place of performance or rehearsal—
- (a) for more than seven and a half hours a day;
  - (b) before nine in the morning or after half-past four in the afternoon, except that a child of ten years may be present until five in the afternoon.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), regulation 29(2) shall apply to a child of twelve years as if for the words “thirteen years or over” there was substituted the words “twelve years” and the words “seven in the evening” wherever they occur there were substituted the words “five in the afternoon”.
- (3) A child of five years or over but under thirteen years shall not take part in a performance or rehearsal on any day—
- (a) for a continuous period of more than forty-five minutes without an interval for rest;
  - (b) for a total period of more than three hours.

(4) A child of five years or over but under thirteen years shall not be present at a place of performance or rehearsal—

- (a) for more than three and a half consecutive hours without there being two or more intervals of which one shall be for the purpose of a meal and shall be of not less than one hour and the other or others shall be for the purpose of rest and shall not be less than fifteen minutes;
- (b) for more than eight consecutive hours without there being three or more intervals of which two shall be for the purposes of meals and shall be of not less than one hour and the other or others shall be for the purpose of rest and shall not be less than fifteen minutes.

(5) In calculating the number of hours on any day during which a child is present at a place of performance or rehearsal, there shall, in the case of a child for whom arrangements for his education by a private teacher have been approved by the licensing authority, be included any periods of education taken into account for the purpose of complying with the requirements of regulation 12(4), whether or not they take place at the place of performance or rehearsal.

### **Children under five years**

**31.**—(1) A child under five years shall not be present at a place of performance or rehearsal—

- (a) for more than five hours a day;
  - (b) before half-past nine in the morning or after half-past four in the afternoon.
- (2) Such a child shall not take part in a performance or rehearsal on any day—
- (a) for a continuous period of more than thirty minutes without an interval for rest;
  - (b) for a total period of more than two hours.

(3) Any time during which such a child is present at a place of performance or rehearsal, but is not taking part in a performance or rehearsal, shall be used for the purposes of meals, rest and recreation.

### **Work outside latest permitted hour**

**32.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything in regulations 29 to 31, but subject to the restrictions and conditions laid down in paragraph (2), where the board in whose area the performance takes place is satisfied that a scene must be recorded out of doors and after the latest permitted hour, it may permit a child to take part in a performance after the latest permitted hour, but it shall only permit the child to take part in a performance after midnight and before the earliest permitted hour if it is satisfied that it is impracticable for the recording of the performance to be completed before midnight.

(2) Where the board permits a child to take part in a performance after the latest permitted hour, the following restrictions and conditions shall apply—

- (a) the number of hours during which the child takes part in a performance after the latest permitted hour shall be included in computing the maximum number of hours during which he may take part in a performance or rehearsal on any one day under regulations 29 to 31;
- (b) the child shall not take part in any other performance or rehearsal until not less than sixteen hours have elapsed since the end of his part in the performance;
- (c) where the child takes part in a performance after the latest permitted hour on two successive days, the board in whose area the performance takes place shall not permit him to take part in any further performance after the latest permitted hour during the seven days immediately following the said two days.

(3) In this regulation “latest permitted hour” and “earliest permitted hour” in relation to a particular child mean the latest hour and the earliest hour respectively at which that child may be present at the place of performance or rehearsal under regulations 29 to 31.

### **Exceptions to regulations 29 to 31**

- (a) **33.** (1) (a) The matron in charge of a child may allow that child to take part in a performance for a period not exceeding thirty minutes immediately following the latest permitted hour if—
- (i) the total number of hours during which the child takes part in a performance, including the said period of thirty minutes, does not exceed the maximum number of hours permitted under regulations 29 to 31;
  - (ii) it appears to the matron that the welfare of the child will not be prejudiced; and
  - (iii) it appears to the matron that the conditions necessitating the child taking part in a performance after the latest permitted hour arose in circumstances outside the control of the holder of the licence.
- (b) If a child takes part in a performance after the latest permitted hour, the holder of the licence shall ensure that the matron notifies the board in whose area the performance takes place not later than the day immediately following the day on which that child takes part in the performance.
- (c) In this regulation “latest permitted hour” in relation to a particular child means the latest hour at which that child may be present at the place of performance or rehearsal under regulations 29 to 31.
- (2) The matron in charge of a child may allow one of the intervals to be set aside for the purposes of meals under regulation 29 or 30 as the case may be, to be reduced where the child is taking part in a performance or rehearsal out of doors, provided that—
- (a) the duration of that interval is not less than thirty minutes; and
  - (b) the maximum number of hours during which he may take part in a performance or rehearsal under the said regulation 29 or 30 is not exceeded.