

THE USE OF MINORS

THE STUDIO TEACHER

As a general rule, **any student film using minors under 16 years old must have a studio teacher** on set whenever the minor is present. A studio teacher is needed for minors between 16 and 18 years "when required for the education of the minor". In addition to having secondary teaching credentials in the state of California, Studio Teachers have also been certified by the Labor Commission, and they are familiar with the laws governing the use of minors in films.

Furthermore, the legal guardian or parent of the minor must be present the entire time the minor is on the set. **Relatives, babysitters, etc. are not legal substitutes.**

If you are using an infant from 15 days to 6 months old you must also have a **NURSE** present on the set – as well as a Studio Teacher and the parents. The use of infants less than 15 days of age is prohibited by law.

WORK PERMITS FOR MINORS

Minors **must have work permits** before they can accept a role in a student film. They must bring this permit with them to the set each day they work. Studio Teachers will want to see these permits before they allow a child to work in your film. These permits can be obtained from:

State of California Department of Industrial Relations
6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 100
Van Nuys, California 91401
Voice: (818) 901-5302
Fax: (818) 901-5307

The department's office hours are:

Mon, Wed, Fri	9-12a	1-3:30p
Tue	9-12a	
Th		1-3:30p

When dealing with minor permits, please plan far in advance, AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR SHOOT. Even if you're just getting a permit, and especially if you want a waiver of the Studio Teacher (see below), this process can take some time.

THE STUDIO TEACHER WAIVER

As of June, 2001, **NO STUDIO TEACHER WAIVERS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.** If you insist on using a minor, be prepared to employ a studio teacher.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT MINORS, STUDIO TEACHERS AND YOUR FILM

A Studio Teacher is responsible by law for the health, safety and moral well being of children working in films. **The Studio Teacher has the absolute discretion to remove a minor from your production if he/she feels that the minor's health, safety and/or moral well-being may be compromised.** The union has put together a small booklet, called "The Blue Book", covering the most important aspects of the extensive laws governing the use of minors in film.

A Studio Teacher is required even when school is not in session, including weekends if the minor is under the age of 16.

Studio Teachers may or may not belong to a union (Local 884), and the amount of money they receive for a day's work varies widely (and may be negotiable). Keep in mind the extra cost you may incur for a Studio Teacher when budgeting. Also be sure to account for the shorter hours minors can work when you schedule your film.

Most importantly, the presence of a minor on the set means the crew must conduct themselves as professionally and responsibly as humanly possible.

WORK HOURS

The work hours of minors are strictly regulated and vigorously enforced. The amounts of hours that children may work are determined by their age. Extensions are not allowed.

AGES	TIME ON SET	SCHOOL	REST & REC	TOTAL TIME
15 days – 6 months	20 minutes	-----	<u>1 hour</u> <u>40 minutes</u>	2 hours
6 months – 2 years	2 hours	-----	2 hours	4 hours
2 years – 6 years	3 hours	-----	3 hours	6 hours
6 years – 9 years	<u>4 hours</u> 6 hours	<u>3 hours</u> vacation	<u>1 hour</u> 2 hours	8 hours
9 years – 16 years	<u>5 hours</u> 7 hours	<u>3 hours</u> vacation	<u>1 hour</u> 2 hours	9 hours
16 years – 18 years	<u>6 hours</u> 8 hours	<u>3 hours</u> vacation	<u>1 hour</u> 2 hours	10 hours

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS A MINOR PERMITTED TO BEGIN WORK BEFORE 5:00 AM OR TO WORK PAST 12:30 AM

The requirements established for the use of minors are state law. Failure to comply with these laws could result in criminal and civil penalties for the producer, director, as well as other participants in the production of the film – including Faculty and Staff.

