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**CHILD SAFETY GUIDELINES**

Updated 9/28/2018

All persons under the age of 18 are children under Pennsylvania law. The following safety guidelines are designed make sure children have a positive experience in our theater.

**Minors are a protected group:**

* Extra care must be taken to protect the privacy of minors. Their address and phone number should not be openly shared unless permission is granted by their legal guardian.
* A parent or guardian must sign the Cast Information form that includes contact information, medical information, and the photograph & video release form.
* A parent or guardian must decide if all communication with the child goes through them.

**Supervision and transportation of child/youth:**

* A single person with child clearances, a parent, or a person designated by the parent must be responsible for the supervision of the child at all times he/she is in the theater.
* No person may transport the child without the express permission of his/her parent.
* No person without child clearance may transport the child.
* All children must have an emergency contact number

**If the child gets sick:**

* Notify the parent/guardian immediately if the child is sick
* Do not give any medication including aspirin or other pain killer without either verbal or written permission from the parent/guardian.

**If accident or injury occurs:**

* Emergency – refer to emergency contact information form.
* Notify parent/guardian of the injury
* Call 911 if necessary

**When using the public restrooms:**

* Escort the child to any public restroom to ensure safety.
* Cross gender matches-escort child to the outside door of the restroom.

**At end of rehearsal or performance:**

* Ensure that child has approved transportation from the theater.
* Stay with the child until transportation arrives.

 **When riding in or operating motor vehicles:**

* Pennsylvania state guidelines state that children ages 4-8 are required to be in a booster seat unless the child is over 80 lbs or at least 4’9” tall. It is also recommended that children under 13 ride in the back seat. Drivers and passengers are required to wear a seatbelt wherever they sit in the vehicle.
* Avoid using a cell phone while transporting child in a vehicle.

**Personal boundaries:**

* Respect the child’s personal space and privacy.
* Provide separate/private area for child to change.
* Physical affection may be expressed using a handshake, high five, pat on back or hug.
* Wrestling, or tickling and children sitting on laps is prohibited.
* Consult with the parent/guardian before discussing values, sexuality, religion, life choices with a child.
* Never come between the parent/guardian & child; respect parental role and authority
* Communicate any concerns about the child privately with the parent/guardian.