



Briefing Note:

### **Photographing and Video Recording Scout Events: Child Protection**

The Association had not found it necessary to formulate specific rules covering the use of cameras or video recorders at Scout run events. The following guidelines are recommended:-

#### **Still Photography**

When photographs featuring young people are being taken specifically for use in advertising and/or promotional material then it **strongly recommended** that parental consent is obtained using a simple Release Form along the lines of the attached.

Photographs being taken by a professional newspaper photographer attending a Scout event by invitation would not normally need parental permission. Increasingly local papers are adopting a policy not to publish individual names in any caption which goes a long way towards putting minds at rest.

Photographs taken and sent unsolicited to newspapers and publications do not normally need to include individual names of young people in any supporting captions. The name of the Scout Group is normally sufficient identification. If you need to provide contact information it is better to provide a Leader's name and contact telephone number & e-mail address.

Photographs taken by Press photographers without invitation or permission are subject to the normal Press Complaints Commission Code of Conduct. The full Code can be viewed at :-  
<http://www.pcc.org.uk/cop/cop.asp>

The most appropriate parts are:

#### **3. Privacy**

- i) *Everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home, health and correspondence. A publication will be expected to justify intrusions into any individual's private life without consent*
- ii) *The use of long lens photography to take pictures of people in private places without their consent is unacceptable.*

*Note - Private places are public or private property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.*

#### **4. Harassment**

- i) *Journalists and photographers must neither obtain nor seek to obtain information or pictures through intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit*
- ii) *They must not photograph individuals in private places (as defined by the note to clause 3) without their consent; must not persist in telephoning, questioning, pursuing or photographing individuals after having been asked to desist; must not remain on their*

*property after having been asked to leave and must not follow them.*

- iii) *Editors must ensure that those working for them comply with these requirements and must not publish material from other sources which does not meet these requirements.*

#### **5. Intrusion into grief or shock**

*In cases involving personal grief or shock, enquiries must be carried out and approaches made with sympathy and discretion. Publication must be handled sensitively at such times but this should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.*

#### **6. Children**

- i) *Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion.*
- ii) *Journalists must not interview or photograph a child under the age of 16 on subjects involving the welfare of the child or any other child in the absence of or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the children.*
- iii) *Pupils must not be approached or photographed while at school without the permission of the school authorities.*
- iv) *There must be no payment to minors for material involving the welfare of children nor payments to parents or guardians for material about their children or wards unless it is demonstrably in the child's interest.*
- v) *Where material about the private life of a child is published, there must be justification for publication other than the fame, notoriety or position of his or her parents or guardian.*

#### **Video Recording**

There are no hard and fast rules relating to video recording; it is a question of using common sense.

The following guidelines are recommended:

- Always ask for permission whenever possible; it is more of a moral than legal issue
- Always remember and be aware of child protection issues; how people would react if any material falls into the wrong hands and is misused in some way
- If you are producing a video featuring children and you wish to err on the side of caution then by all means use a Consent Form along the lines of the attached sample - this will avoid problems if anyone objects on the night.
- In the case of Gang Shows and similar performances, you should bear in mind the issue of copyright for material and music. Recording could have implications.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Publicity Photography: *Scouting activity and date***

I am very grateful to you for letting your son or daughter help at the photo-shoot at *Scouting activity* on *date*. The photographs that have been taken will be used in connection with the publicity for *Scouting activity*. We will not publish any address details or surnames of any young people in captions associated with the photographs .

It would be very helpful if you can confirm that you are content for the pictures to be used in publicity material by signing the form below.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

*Your name & Scouting position*

=====✂

This is to confirm that I have no objections to the photographs taken at *Scouting activity* on *date* being used for Scouting purposes only.

Name of participant: .....

Signature (parent/guardian): ..... Date: .....

Please return the completed slip by *return date* to *your name and address*.