

# Association of Ulster Drama Festivals

## Ulster Drama Festival

### Child Protection Policy

#### **THE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE THAT SUPPORTS THIS POLICY:**

The Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968, The Criminal Justice (Children) (N.I.) Order 1978, The Protection of Children Act 1999; The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (N.I.) Order 2003.

#### **THE FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The Festival Committee ("Festival") organises drama festivals to foster, encourage and develop the appreciation of Amateur Drama in or on the island of Ireland and endeavours to inform and involve participating drama clubs or groups ("Clubs") and others assisting with it in order to ensure, insofar as it is reasonably practicable, a safe environment at the festival venues.

#### **TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY:**

This Policy relates to children under the age of 18 years and those vulnerable adults of any age who are identified to the Festival when Clubs make their formal application to take part. This should be done by having the relevant part of the Application Form duly completed or, in the event of any subsequent change, by contacting the Festival Secretary at the address or telephone number at the foot of this Statement.

#### **FESTIVAL PERSONNEL:**

The Festival and staff are all volunteers who are recruited by recommendation. This document draws participating Clubs' attention to the fact that at each festival session a committee member will be specifically designated to deal with any problems encountered by children, vulnerable adults and those responsible for them. In case of a problem, anyone wearing a badge should be approached and will be able to direct you to the committee member who will deal with it. Every problem raised with the Festival will be taken seriously and will be documented and dated.

#### **PREPARATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT FESTIVALS:**

The primary responsibility for looking after a child rests with the parents, guardians and carers of each participating Club. A copy of this Policy Statement will be sent to every Club with its Application Form. Clubs should ensure that a copy is given to every parent, guardian or carer prior to attending a festival event. This Policy makes it clear that where parents, guardians and carers are not personally attending with their children, the Festival expects them to satisfy themselves that their children will be supervised at the venue by other responsible adults acting on their behalf who are members of the particular Club.

#### **PERFORMANCE AREAS AND CHANGING AREAS:**

Whilst there are Dressing Rooms assigned to participating Clubs available at the venues, these are not supervised by the Festival, neither is the Festival responsible for participants when they are in public areas outside the body of the festival venue. This includes the toilets. It is the responsibility of participating Clubs and parents, guardians and carers to ensure that their children or vulnerable adults are adequately supervised at all times.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPES and PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY:**

No unauthorized photography of whatever nature will be permitted in the performance area. Authorised Press photographers may take photographs during the course of the festival. If Clubs, parents, guardians or carers do not wish press photographs to be taken then the responsible adults attending with children or vulnerable adults are responsible for ensuring that they are not included in press photographs.

#### **POLICY REVIEW:**

The Festival will constantly review its policy, improving and enhancing it as necessary.

#### **CONTACT ADDRESS:**

The person to contact in advance of the festival is Paul Cuming whose postal address is:  
25 Garnerville Road Belfast BT4 2QQ  
Tel. 07500873725.  
E-mail address: aulfsecretary@gmail.com