



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Guidance on Media Photography or Filming of Children

Following concerns raised about whether it is appropriate for the media to be photographing or filming children in certain settings - for example, during sports events - the Safeguarding Children Board would like to advise the public that provisions to cover this are included in the ***St Helena Media Commission Code of Practice***, which came into force in April 2014.

Parents, organisations, venues, sports and community groups - and the Media - will want to note the Code's provisions for Privacy at Part Two: Section 3, including (for example) the following guidelines:

- *When recording in institutions, organisations or other agencies, permission shall be obtained from the relevant authority or management, unless it is warranted to film or record without permission. The individual consent of employees or others whose appearance is incidental or where they are essentially anonymous members of the general public shall not normally be required.*
- *However, in potentially sensitive places such as ambulances, hospitals, schools, prisons or police stations, separate consent shall normally be obtained before recording (unless not obtaining consent is warranted).*

“Warranted” means, for example, where the public interest outweighs another right, such as a right to privacy.

The Code further provides that:

- *Where a media service features a person under 18 in a way that infringes privacy, consent may require to be obtained from a parent, guardian or other person of eighteen or over with parental responsibility and, wherever possible, from the individual concerned - unless the subject matter is trivial or uncontroversial and the participation minor, or it is warranted to proceed without consent.*
- *Due care shall be taken over the physical and emotional welfare and the dignity of persons under 18 who take part or are otherwise involved in media services. This is irrespective of any consent given by the participant or by a parent, guardian or other person over the age of eighteen with parental responsibility. Persons under 18 shall not be caused unnecessary distress or anxiety by their involvement in media services or by the dissemination of those media services.*

These Code of Practice guidelines on good practice for the media are backed by the authority of the St Helena Media Commission, which has the power to apply sanctions as appropriate. The Code can be viewed at:

<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/publications/>

This Media Code supplements basic rights and freedoms already in place on St Helena, and in particular a right to personal privacy.