



Briefing Note

Date: 15.2.05

Photographing and Video Recording Scout Events: Child Protection

The Association has 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, it is **recommended** parental consent is obtained using a simple Release Form along the lines of the attached. This is not a legal requirement, as the copyright of an image belongs to the photographer and not the subject. Nevertheless, it is good practice and good manners to seek parental approval.

When a new member joins the Scout Group, a simple form seeking permission can be handed out, on the lines of:

Sometimes photos and video images of Scouts taking part in activities are submitted to the local newspapers, the Group, District or County newsletters and website or put on display. If you have any objections please indicate you are not willing for your child's image to be used in this way by ticking the box

Whenever details of a forthcoming event are being circulated to parents, simply include a suitably amended Parental Consent Form at the same time.

Note: Newspapers are always keen to use names, but may settle for captions like 'Pack members of the 5th Clywd', rather than individuals' names. Parents and the local Scouting fraternity may agree to first names only being printed. It's worth discussing this with parents and those in Scouting locally to see what their thoughts are on publishing the names of young people.

Shouting for Scouting is important and it's in the interests of all to promote the Movement through the use of appropriate and positive images. Scouting needs publicity. A picture is worth a thousand words – make it eye-catching and bright! Get it right!

The advice is not to state where and when a Group meets. It is better to give an adult Leader's contact details (phone number/e-mail) - though do check first they are happy to have their details printed.

It is important parental consent is obtained in advance of a professional newspaper photographer attending a Scout event by invitation. For ethical and courtesy reasons, it is best to clear this with parents in advance to avoid any confusion - or wasted trips by photographers.

Where young people are pictured en masse, it's easier to include a suitably amended Parental Consent Form asking parents to state if they have any objection to their young people being photographed.

Clearly, if a picture is showing only one or two individuals, Parental Consent needs to be obtained.

To summarise:

- 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.
- Provide a Leader's name and contact telephone number and e-mail address. Details of when and where the Group meet should not be stated.

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, including digital communication. Editors will be expected to justify intrusions into any individual's private life without consent.*
- ii) *It is unacceptable to photograph individuals in private places without their consent.*

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

4. Harassment

- i) *Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit.*
- ii) *They must not persist in questioning, telephoning, pursuing or photographing individuals once asked to desist; nor remain on their property when asked to leave and must not follow them.*
- iii) *Editors must ensure these principles are observed by those working for them and take care not to use non-compliant material from other sources.*

5. Intrusion into grief or shock

In cases involving personal grief or shock, enquiries and approaches must be made with sympathy and discretion and publication handled sensitively. This should not restrict the right to report legal proceedings, such as inquests.

6. Children

- i) *Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion.*
- ii) *A child under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents.*
- iii) *Pupils must not be approached or photographed while at school without the permission of the school authorities.*
- iv) *Minors must not be paid for material involving children's welfare, nor parents or guardians for material about their children or wards, unless it is clearly in the child's interest.*

- v) *Editors must not use the fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.*

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 producing a video featuring children, err on the side of caution by using 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.

Communications Department
The Scout Association
Gilwell Park, London E4 7QW

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 with your contact details

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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*.