

Personal Identity and Safety Concerns

Many recent events have served as a reminder that we should all be very careful about children's personal information. A recent article on the SAG website offered suggestions specific to all actors. The following are especially critical areas for child actors.

Information on Headshots / Resumes

DO NOT put a social security number on a resume

DO NOT use personal contact information - such as home address, home phone number. It is recommended that you use your agent or manager's contact information. If that is not possible, a cell phone or pager number is recommended. With today's technology, many phone numbers are able to be entered online (on Google, for example) and the corresponding address will appear.

Information to provide at auditions

DO NOT write your social security number on a sign in sheet, or size card, even though it is requested. If you are a SAG member, you can use your SAG member number. If not, you can indicate 'on file'. If you are going to be hired, you will have ample opportunity to provide this information to your employer. Many of these documents are not permanently maintained by the casting director, and your child's information provided at the audition will likely end up in a public trash can at some point.

Specific Concerns Regarding Photographs

A few months ago, there was an issue regarding actors headshots being sold on eBay. In some instances, these were headshots of child actors as well. In light of that situation, SAG makes the following recommendations as ways to protect your child's privacy, as well as their image, from being sold to unknown entities on eBay.

1. Add additional language on the photo (preferred) or resume, such as; "For casting purposes only. Not intended for sale or commercial use."
2. Be aware of the 'ownership' of your headshots. If a photographer includes language in their contract stating they are performing 'work for hire', you will own the copyright to your child's photograph. Even if the photographer gives you a negative, without that language or agreement, they own the photograph. This is an important distinction, especially if you attempt to pursue complaints thru agencies such as eBay.
3. Be aware that this situation does exist. Use an internet search engine and check for unauthorized use of your child's image. Sometimes this takes a bit of creativity and time. Many of the sellers on eBay who were previously listing entire names of child actors, began to list them only using the first name. This made it more difficult for parents to quickly find their child's headshot listed.

If you would like more information or suggestions about personal identity and safety issues, please visit the SAG website at:

<http://www.sag.org>