



Korea Communications Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Broadcasting Infrastructure Bureau
Broadcasting Infrastructure Coordination Division (02-2110-1256)

KCC, ACTS TO PROTECT CHILD AND YOUTH PERFORMERS IN BROADCAST PROGRAMS

- Implements guidelines starting January 18 –

- Makes recommendation to place human rights expert on filming production site –

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC, Chairman Han Sang-hyuk) will implement the “Standard Production Guidelines on Protecting Children and Youth Performers in Broadcasting Programs” (hereinafter “the Guidelines”). The Guidelines, which go into effect January 18, seek to protect the rights to health and education for children and youth appearing in broadcast productions, and also prohibit use of inappropriate language/physical contact.

The KCC drew up the Guidelines last December following discussion with broadcasters, related associations and government ministries in order to protect children and youth appearing in broadcast programs. After a 30-day grace period, the KCC requested that broadcasters and relevant organizations implement the Guidelines.

Key points of the Guidelines

- (General Principles) Must place first priority on protection of children and youth during the process of broadcast production

- (Preemptive Measures for Production) Disclose the intent of the production, type of shooting and other important information to the child/adolescent performers and their guardians, and gain their consent
- (Production Process and Follow-up Measures)
 1. The production/shooting time for child/adolescent actors must follow the Popular Culture and Arts Industry Development Act and other relevant laws
 2. Strive for basic human rights such as physical and mental welfare, as well as right to education
 3. Refrain from any speech or action that could cause any sexual discomfort, and do not force any excessive revealing action/exposure
 4. Prohibit any inappropriate physical contact, and respect the performer as a human being and use appropriate language when addressing them
- (Safety and Protection) The child/adolescent's safety comes before the program production, and the production must take care to ensure that the performer is not endangered through any information leakage about the performer
- (Production staff's responsibility) If the staff discover that the child/adolescent performer's rights have been violated, they are required to take the appropriate action in order to protect the victim

The KCC sees implementing these Guidelines as an opportunity for broadcasters, production staff and everyone related to strive to reduce cases* of child and adolescent performers' inconvenience during production. It also anticipates an improvement in the production environment.

* 1) Failure to inform the parties about the intention or method of the production, 2) Waking up or using physical force on a tired performer who has fallen asleep after filming for a long period of time or having filming delayed, 3) Filming without any safety measures in place in bad weather due to a tight schedule

Experts say that there are more instances of production staff shooting scenes with child actors first when shooting is delayed, or being careful about the level of violent scenes or expressions around child actors, but also point out that there is still room for improvement.

In order to help the Guidelines take root, the KCC will recommend specific action plans, such as placing experts or supervisors on the site of production in order to protect child and youth actors' human rights, such as the right to health or education, and to ensure safety measures.

Additionally, the KCC will go beyond drawing up the Guidelines to find better ways to improve the situation. The KCC will cooperate with broadcasters and production staff and listen to the voices of various stakeholders so that child and adolescent actors can feel the improvements for themselves.

Chairman Han commented, "Considering how important the roles of broadcasters and production staff are in protecting child and youth performers on site, I hope that the staff and related parties will work to ensure that the objective of these Guidelines is implemented well."

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