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## Child Protection Policy

**Reviewed:** 5th June 2025

**Next Review Due:** 5th June 2026

### 1. Introduction

Pageant Productions recognises that the welfare of children is paramount. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we are committed to creating a safe environment for all children and young people who engage with our projects.

All children have the right to be protected from harm, regardless of:

- Age
- Health or disability
- Gender or sexual orientation
- Race, religion, belief or first language
- Political or immigration status

### 2. Aim of this Policy

This policy sets out Pageant Productions' approach to safeguarding children and young people. It provides guidance for identifying concerns and outlines the procedures that must be followed.

For the purpose of this policy, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

### 3. Definitions

#### Safeguarding

As defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2023), safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up with safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

## Child Protection

Child protection is part of safeguarding and refers to the activity undertaken to protect children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

## Significant Harm

'Significant harm' is the threshold for statutory intervention. It may result from a single traumatic event or the cumulative impact of ongoing neglect or abuse. Decisions must involve Children's Services or the Police.

## Types of Abuse

- Physical abuse - including hitting, shaking, burning, poisoning, or fabricating illness.
- Emotional abuse - persistent emotional maltreatment, such as belittling, bullying, or rejection.
- Sexual abuse - including both contact and non-contact activities.
- Neglect - persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or emotional needs.

## 4. Reporting Procedures

If a Pageant Productions staff member or subcontractor has a concern about a child's safety or welfare:

1. They must report it to Gary Jarman (Designated Safeguarding Lead).
2. Gary Jarman will assess the concern and, if appropriate, escalate it to:
  - The Safeguarding Lead at the commissioning organisation (if applicable).
  - Or the relevant Local Authority Children's Services / MASH team.
3. If the concern relates directly to the commissioning organisation, Pageant Productions will bypass internal reporting and refer directly to local authorities.
4. If there is immediate danger, emergency services will be contacted by dialling 999.

**Note:** Up-to-date local contact details for the relevant MASH teams are kept on file and can be found in the Safeguarding Contacts Reference Sheet provided with this policy.

## 5. Filming and Recording

- Filming consent forms must be completed and signed by a parent or carer in advance.
- Consent must be fully informed, including how footage may be used or shared.
- Participants should feel comfortable to opt out at any stage.
- Media files are stored securely and managed in line with our Data Protection Policy.

## 6. Training

Gary Jarman has completed child protection training provided by Dorset Council and will attend updates periodically.

All subcontractors and staff will be provided with this policy and a short briefing before working with children.

## 7. DBS Checks

Gary Jarman holds a clear Enhanced DBS check with child and adult barring list checks and is registered with the Update Service.

Commissioning organisations will be given permission to check this online where relevant.

Any subcontractor working regularly or unsupervised with children will be required to:

- Hold a valid Enhanced DBS check (including children's barred list), or
- Work only under direct supervision of a checked and trained team member.

## 8. Subcontractors

Subcontractors must not work unsupervised with children unless they have completed child protection training and hold a current Enhanced DBS check as outlined above.

## 9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to any major changes in safeguarding guidance or following a safeguarding concern.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Gary Jarman

Email: gary@pageantproductions.co.uk

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## **Addendum: Digital Safeguarding**

Pageant Productions recognises the importance of safeguarding children in digital and online environments. When engaging with children through online workshops, interviews, or video calls, we commit to the following measures:

- Ensure that online platforms used are secure and privacy compliant.
- Always obtain consent from a parent/carer for a child's participation in any digital activity.
- Ensure at least two adults, with one adult being a Pageant staff member are present in any live session video where children are involved.
- Record sessions only where strictly necessary, with clear consent, and store them securely.
- Ensure appropriate language, clothing, and background settings during video calls.
- Report and log any inappropriate behaviour or safeguarding concerns immediately.

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## **Safeguarding Contacts Reference Sheet**

Below are the current contact points for local authority safeguarding referrals. These should be reviewed annually to ensure they are up to date:

### **Dorset Council - MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)**

Tel: 01305 228866

Email: [MASH@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council - MASH**

Tel: 01202 123 334

Email: [MASH@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Out of Hours Service (All Areas)**

Tel: 01202 657279

### **Emergency (Immediate Risk)**

Call 999 and ask for the Police

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## Safeguarding Incident Report Form

This form should be completed as soon as possible after a concern or disclosure has been raised.

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Incident/Concern:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of Incident/Concern:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Details of the Incident or Concern (factual, objective information):**

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**Name of any other witnesses present:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action taken (e.g., reported to Gary Jarman, emergency services, etc.):**

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**Your Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_