

Q&A:

Minors as Entertainers

February 2017

1) When does the policy to allow minors to perform as entertainers take effect?

The policy to allow minors to perform as entertainers in minors-prohibited licensed venues takes effect immediately.

2) Who does the licensee need to contact at the AGLC to get approval?

Licensees can contact their respective AGLC Inspections Office in St. Albert, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie or Lethbridge. Licensees must contact the AGLC each time they intend to hire an underage entertainer.

3) Does the minor need to leave the premises in between sets or be in a back room?

The minor can remain in the premises in between sets and does not need to be in a back room.

4) Does the minor need to leave the premises as soon as their show is done?

As regulations only allow a minor in a minors-prohibited premises for the purpose of entertaining patrons, the minor must depart the premises after concluding their final set and once their equipment and belongings are removed from the venue.

5) Does the minor need to provide parental approval?

Parental approval is not required; however, licensees must follow all applicable labour laws in relation to the employment of minors.

6) Why did the AGLC reconsider its policy to allow minors to perform as entertainers?

The landscape has changed since the AGLC's decision to prohibit minors from entertaining in minors-prohibited licensed venues in 2007. Since that time we have seen the advantage of more effective targeted mechanisms to focus on overall safety in licensed premises.

Most recently, Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly David Shepherd led a consultation with Thom Bennett of the Edmonton Live Music Initiative. Together they met with musicians, venue owners and booking agents/promoters and received overwhelming support to allow minors to perform in minors-prohibited venues.

7) How will the AGLC ensure the minor's safety is considered?

A review of the licensee's operating history, as well as the specific request, will be conducted to determine if it is appropriate for a minor to perform in the requested venue. The AGLC does not anticipate issues for most requests.

8) Does this policy change apply to casinos or Racing Entertainment Centres (RECs)?

No. Minors are still prohibited from entering and performing in licensed gaming venues.