

CR Kids Talent

SAG Coogan Law Letter

The Coogan Law was revised January 1, 2000 and will cover every job performed by child actors, sports figures, and musicians and it covers all commercials, movies, TV shows, stage plays, concerts, print work, and extra work. Basically, this law covers everything a child does for pay in the world of entertainment, music, and sports. Every parent and guardian must know the Coogan Law. **CR Kids Talent** has listed some key points for you below. You can get for information at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/>

Parents and guardians must understand and adhere to the following.

- Every child's contract will have 15% of gross earnings set aside in a trust account.
- At the time of employment for each job, the parent will need to have with them a copy of Deposit Instructions and the Statement of Trustee, which will be given to you by the issuing bank. These documents will be left with the production company. The Statement of Trustee must include the name of the bank, account number, the name of the account, type of account, date opened, routing/transit number, child's social security number, date of birth, and the child's name. The Deposit Instructions must have a routing/transit number, member name, account number, account type, and name of contact person at the bank. This information must be provided within 10 days after employment starts.
- The money the child earns belongs to the child and **not** to the whole family. The parent will be the trustee for the child's funds, not only for the 15%, which is in trust, but also for any other funds which the child may receive.
- The law requires parents to keep separate and thorough records of income and expenditures of the trust account funds. Parents are responsible for filing tax returns for the child. When the child turns 18, all records of income and expenditures must be given to them.
- If there is an existing court-blocked account, a new one must be established in keeping with the January 1, 2000 revisions of the Coogan Law. Old funds (prior to January 1, 2000) and new funds (after January 1, 2000) should be kept separate. New accounts must be established within 10 days after the start of the job.

- All information must be available for W-4, I-9, and other employment papers. The I-9 requires a copy of the child's birth certificate and social security number.
- Parents of background performers should set up accounts immediately. After confirmation of the account by the employer, the employer is required to deposit all funds owed to the child within 15 days.

Any questions should be directed to the Coogan hotline at 323-549-6639. The SAG Young Performers Committee administers this hotline. Orientation meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the James Cagney Room at SAG Headquarter.