

# APPENDIX B – FUNCTION & EVENT ATTENDANCE FOR MINORS

## Events

Minors (under 18 years of age) may only attend SCA events under one of the following two conditions:

One: Minor is accompanied by their legal guardian, and a signed minor waiver is on file at the Gate (or the minor has a blue membership card). The guardian must remain at the event with the minor, and may NOT leave the minor at the event and come back later to pick them up.

...or, Two: Minor is accompanied by a designated guardian over the age of 18 and a variety of paperwork completed and signed by their legal guardian. This paperwork includes a complete, signed minor waiver (OR a copy of the minor's blue card) and a complete, signed minor medical waiver, as well as a signed letter from the legal guardian specifically naming the designated guardian for the day. The designated guardian should bring two copies of each of these paperwork items, and file one copy of each with the Gate when they arrive, and carry one copy of each on their person at all times. These paperwork items are required to meet legal and SCA requirements, and MUST be complete and on file before the minor will be allowed to attend without their legal guardian. The designated guardian must remain at the event with the minor, and may NOT leave the minor at the event and come back later to pick them up.

Situation Two is designed so that an older relative (uncle/aunt, sibling, cousin, etc.) or family friend can bring a minor (usually a teen) to an event if the parents are not interested in the SCA. This designated guardian needs to be aware, however, that they are responsible for the minor's care and well-being at the event, and for all of the minor's actions while they are at the event...just as a parent would be.

Minors who show up and do not meet one or the other of these two conditions outlined above WILL NOT be permitted to attend that SCA event. They will be sent home, and if necessary, a parent may be called to the event site to collect them.

Questions about this policy should be directed to the Kingdom Seneschal.

If the minor wishes to participate in combat activities without a parent present, contact the Earl Marshal to get the most up-to-date policy information.

For out-of-kingdom events such as Pennsic, you must follow the laws and policies of that kingdom (which in the case of Pennsic is that minors may only be accompanied by their legal guardian or someone with a notarized legal guardianship document).

## Emancipated Minors

An emancipated minor would need to produce court or legal documents verifying that they are indeed independent and living on their own. A copy of those documents could be filed at the gate along with the minor waiver, etc. signed by the emancipated minor in lieu of a guardian. The guidelines for emancipated minors do not apply to students at college or university who are living away from home for their studies. Those minors should follow the standard minor event attendance guidelines listed in the first section of this document.

## Meetings and Practices

While unaccompanied minors (e.g. older teens) may attend SCA meetings, A&S nights, practices, etc. in any public venue, they absolutely may not attend any function held in a private residence without a parent or legal guardian present. For meetings, etc. in public venues, it is recommended that a parent or guardian attends at least one meeting to meet the group and discuss the nature and format of the SCA.

## Forms

Minor Waivers and Minor Medical Waivers can be found on the main SCA website.

## **Supervision of Youth Activities**

The following policy is a Society-level Policy, and needs to be strictly adhered to at all times. The full text of this policy can be found in the Society Seneschal's Handbook. Questions regarding this policy or its enforcement should be directed to the Kingdom Seneschal.

**All organized SCA activities for minors must be supervised by a minimum of two adults, unrelated to one another by blood, marriage, or relationship, at all times. This policy does not relieve parents or guardians of their primary responsibility for the welfare and behavior of their children. Parents (or guardians who bring minors to an event, function, meeting, or practice) must ensure their children's activities are compliant with SCA Governing Documents, Laws, Policies, and site rules, including any Kingdom or event rules regarding a requirement for minors 12 and under to be within sight/sound of responsible parent/guardian at all times.**

This policy also applies to organized non-youth-specific activities where minors are also participating alongside the adults. At least two unrelated adults (as noted above) must be present at all times during the course of the activity if minors are participating.

Event organizers are responsible for clearly posting any site- or event-specific rules regarding the supervision of minors, so that parents and guardians are informed and may ensure their children's activities comply with those rules in addition to the ones outlined in this policy.

## **Enforcement**

Individuals in charge of events, meetings, functions, or any other activities covered by SCA insurance are required to enforce this policy. If an activity begins with two unrelated adults present, but the number of unrelated adults present drops below two later on in the activity, the activity will cease at once and not resume until at least two unrelated adults are present.

Persons in charge of events, meetings, functions, or activities covered by SCA insurance are required to report to their branch superior when non-compliance with this policy has been discovered.

## **Penalties for Non-Compliance**

When activities with minors present do not have at least two unrelated adults present, the official discovering the lapse will correct it immediately or terminate the activity. All lapses require a report of the incident to the official's superior. Under emergency conditions it is expected that persons in charge will act to ensure safety first and compliance second. Individuals who knowingly violate this policy will be banned from representing the SCA as an officer in the operations chain via administrative sanctions as described in Corpora Section X, and the Uniform Sanction Procedure.

## **Neglect of Parental (or Guardian) Responsibility for Minors**

Parents must ensure that their children are properly supervised at all times, in accordance with SCA, kingdom, event and site rules. Parents have primary responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of their children during their participation in the SCA and any official or unofficial youth activities.

If event/branch/SCA officials find minors in breach of SCA Governing Documents, Laws, Policies, or site rules they will (for a first offence) escort the minors to their parent/guardian and issue a verbal warning. A report on the incident will be tendered to the Kingdom Seneschal.

On a second offence at a given function, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to keep their minor(s) with them for the remainder of the function. A report on the incident will be tendered to the Kingdom and Society Seneschal.

On a third offence at a given function, the minor(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be expelled from the event, and the matter will be reported to Kingdom and Society Seneschals.

Habitual offenders will be subject to review by Kingdom and Society level for possible sanctions.