

HYPNOTISM - CONDITIONS

1. Hypnotism

- 1.1 The following conditions shall apply to any consent given for an exhibition, demonstration or performance (hereafter “performance”) of hypnotism.
- 1.2 No exhibition, demonstration or performance of hypnotism (as defined in s.6 of the Hypnotism Act 1952) shall be given by any person at the place licensed except with express written consent of the licensing authority and in accordance with any conditions attached to such consent.
- 1.3 Any applications for consent shall be in writing and signed by the licence holder, and shall be made not less than 28 days in advance of the exhibition, demonstration or performance concerned.
- 1.4 No person who has not attained the age of 18 years shall be subjected to hypnosis.
- 1.5 Every poster, advertisement or programme relating to the exhibition displayed, sold or supplied at the premises shall draw attention in a clear legible manner to the prohibition of the hypnotising of any person under the age of 18 years, imposed by section 3 of the hypnotism act 1952.
- 1.6 The exhibition shall be so conducted as not to be likely to cause harm to those persons subjected to the influence of hypnosis, to say or do anything indecent, offensive or harmful to the public.

2. Physical Arrangements

- 2.1 The means of access between the auditorium and the stage for participants shall be properly lit and free from obstruction.
- 2.2 Where a performance takes place on a raised stage area, a continuous white or yellow line shall be provided at a safe distance from the edge of the stage for its whole width. The hypnotist shall inform all subjects that they must not cross the line while under hypnosis, unless specifically told to do so as part of the performance.

3. Treatment of audience and subjects

- 3.1 Before starting the performance the hypnotist shall make a statement to the audience, in a serious manner, identifying those groups of people who should not volunteer to participate in it; explaining what volunteers might be asked to perform; informing the audience of the possible risks from embarrassment or anxiety and emphasising that subjects may cease to participate at any time they wish. The following is a suggested statement, which might be amended as necessary to suit individual styles as long as the overall message remains the same
- 3.2 *“I shall be looking for volunteers aged over 18 who are willing to be hypnotised and participate in the show. Anyone who comes forward should be prepared to take part in a range of entertaining hypnotic suggestions, but can be assured that they will not be asked to do any thing which is indecent, offensive or harmful. Volunteers need to be in normal physical and mental health and I must ask that no-one volunteers if they have a history of mental illness or if you are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or are pregnant”.*

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3.3 No form of coercion shall be used to persuade members of the audience to participate in the performance. In particular, hypnotists shall not use selection techniques which seek to identify and coerce onto the stage the most suggestible members of the audience without their prior knowledge of what is intended. Any use of such selection techniques (eg asking members of the audience to clasp their hands together and those who cannot free them to come onto the stage) shall only be used when the audience is fully aware of what is intended and that participation is entirely voluntary at every stage.

3.4 If volunteers are to remain hypnotised during an interval in the performance, a reasonable number of attendants as agreed with the Council shall be in attendance throughout to ensure their safety.

4 Prohibited Actions

4.1 No exhibition, demonstration or performance shall include: -

- a) any experiment involving the age regression of the subject;
- b) the giving of hypnotherapy or any other form of treatment;
- c) any experiment in which the subject is suspended between two supports (catalepsy);
or
- d) the giving of suggestions to the subject that he/she should perform any act or behave in any manner which is likely to be interpreted as indecent, offensive or harmful, nor that he/she should consume any substance which is either noxious or harmful.

5 Completion

5.1 All hypnotic or post-hypnotic suggestions shall be completely removed from the minds of the subjects (including those of any persons in the audience or any other person) before they leave the room or place where the hypnotic performance takes place. Any post-hypnotic suggestions given shall take place only in the presence of the hypnotist and shall not continue after the performance or away from the room or place in which the performance takes place.

5.2 The hypnotist shall remain available for at least 30 minutes after the show to help deal with any problems the might arise. (Such help may take the form of reassurance in the event of headaches or giddiness but this condition does not imply that the hypnotist is an appropriate person to treat anyone who is unwell.)

5.3 A General Practitioner, along with a qualified Nurse shall be present at, or be available to attend, the performance to enable any person who may feel unwell as a result of being under the influence of hypnosis to receive immediate medical treatment.

5.4 No poster, advertisement or programme relating to the exhibition shall be displayed, sold or supplied, by the, or on behalf of the licensee either at the premises or elsewhere which is likely to be injurious to morality or otherwise offensive to the public. If the licensing authority notifies the licensee in writing that it objects to any poster, advertisement or programme displayed, sold or supplied that poster, advertisement or programme shall not thereafter be displayed, sold or supplied.

6 Insurance

6.1 The performance shall be covered by public liability insurance of not less than £2,000,000. The hypnotist must provide evidence of this to the local authority and it shall be available for inspection throughout the performance.

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7. Authorised Access

- 7.1 Where a constable, authorised officer of the Council or the fire authority has reason to believe that a performance is being, or is about to be given, he/she may enter the venue with a view to seeing whether the conditions on which approval for the performance was granted are being complied with.