



Young Women in Harmony Legal and Liability Considerations

When sponsoring a Young Women in Harmony chorus, the legal and liability concerns are similar to accepting youth members into the chapter. If the participants in the YWIH chorus are also chapter members, most of the legal and medical release agreements are likely covered through the youth membership chapter requirements.

However, if the chapter sponsors a group of young women for a YWIH chorus who are not members, the preferred method is for a school to assume responsibility for legal and medical considerations. The schools usually provide the rehearsal and performance venue. However, many chapters assume direct responsibility for all activities of the YWIH chorus.

Liability Coverage

If the chapter sponsors the YWIH chorus and holds rehearsals and performances at venues they normally use and have a certificate of coverage from our insurance company, the Sweet Adelines International liability coverage will extend to these events. If the chapter uses multiple venues for chapter rehearsals and YWIH chorus rehearsals, it is important to obtain a separate Certificate of Insurance for each location. However, the coverage is for legal liability claims brought by a third party. The claimant must show that the chapter was negligent in causing the accident. If there is damage to the facility or another person (third party) is injured by a member of the YWIH chorus, the Sweet Adelines International liability insurance will pay for damages or claims. Contact the Director of Finance and Administration at International Headquarters to obtain a certificate of insurance.

The parent/guardian should always sign a medical and liability agreement. The following pages include sample agreements that can be used.

Other Legal Considerations

It is important that minors be supervised by adult chaperones/guardians while participating in chapter sponsored events. Alcohol should not be available as the trend in most states is to increase the liability of persons or organizations serving alcoholic beverages. In the case of underage participants, the liability could be compounded by additional laws such as contributing to the delinquency of a minor or furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Another consideration is the possibility of sexual molestation claims. Although our organization may have less exposure to this possibility than other youth organizations, it is important that the sponsoring chapter has absolute confidence in all persons in contact with the minor participants. The chorus may want to develop a list of rules for the youth participating in the YWIH chorus, particularly for overnight or extended stay events, i.e., no visitors of the opposite sex in rooms without chaperones or un-chaperoned activities will not be allowed.