

A Parent's Guide to Casting Site Safety

1. Not All Casting Sites Work the Same Way

	VERIFIED PLATFORMS	OPEN MARKETPLACES
Examples	Actors Access, Casting Networks (verified accounts)	Kids Casting and similar open public sites
Who can post a job	Casting directors must submit a government-issued photo ID before posting	The site is a "venue only"; it does not vet who posts listings
Who can see your child	Only <i>approved</i> casting professionals, and only the media submitted for a specific role	<i>Anyone</i> browsing the public site, with no login or approval required
Contact info exposed	Address, email, and phone are hidden from casting by default	Photos, general location, age, and sizes may be publicly visible

2. Red Flags Worth Stopping For

- **Any request for swimsuit, underwear, or "lifestyle" photos as part of the casting process — legitimate roles work from a standard headshot and full-body shot already on file.**
- References to a "TV show," network, or SAG-AFTRA contract that you can't independently verify.
- Upfront fees to "unlock" castings, join a tier, or secure a role.
- Being sent a check and asked to pay some of it back for "wardrobe" or "setup."
- Quick pressure to move communication off the platform and into private email, text, or DM.
- No findable production company, casting director history, or project listing anywhere else (IMDb, trade press, official site).

3. How to Verify Before You Respond

- Search the production or company name in SAG-AFTRA's free Signatory Search at sagaftra.org or call the union directly to confirm.
- Look up the casting director or production company independently; a real project usually has a public trail (IMDb, news coverage, official website).
- Remember: SAG-AFTRA does not cover modeling work, so a modeling gig invoking "SAG-AFTRA" is mixing two unrelated things.
- Never send new photos in swimwear/undergarments, no matter how official the request sounds.

4. Protecting Your Child's Profile

- **Check each platform's privacy settings.** Some allow you to limit who can view a profile, rather than leaving it fully public.
- Avoid listing precise addresses or detailed measurements anywhere a profile is publicly browsable.
- For serious opportunities, prefer ID-verified or agency-mediated platforms over open public marketplaces.

5. If Something Feels Wrong

- **Stop responding immediately.** Don't send more photos or information.
- Screenshot and save the listing, messages, and profile before they disappear.
- Report the listing or account to the platform directly.
- If anyone has solicited inappropriate images of a minor, report it to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline at report.cybertip.org, and contact local police.

Compiled for parent awareness by an industry educator. Share freely with other families.