

Are Kids Clubs Safe?

Mr X recently contacted HolidayTravelWatch, to express his concern over the operation of a tour operators kids club. He experienced a telephone interview, and both he and his partner were offered a job working in a children's club.

They were employed as a children's representative by a long established tour operator. He advised that they worked for up to 14 hours per day, and had been provided with no training.

Of some concern to Mr X was the realisation that he and his partner had not been subject to criminal record checks, as they were working with children. He discovered that out of the 14 colleagues he worked with, 10 did not possess any formal training qualifications, nor a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Certificate.

This report has caused us some concern. It is clear that UK Regulations require those working with children or vulnerable children to be subject to a CRB check. It was clear that the representatives for this company were subject to UK taxes and allowances, why not a CRB check? Because of these concerns we have written to the CRB for their information and guidance on this matter.

We would also advise that if any parents are concerned on these issues then they should seek written confirmation from their tour operator that the appropriate training qualifications, and CRB checks, are in place for their staff.

HolidayTravelWatch
26 October 2006