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Email: [sales@newday.tv](mailto:sales@newday.tv)  
Telephone: 01452 618619

**LEGAL**  
**matters**

**What is the  
legal position  
regarding  
filming in  
church?  
The facts**

**GDPR:** General Data Protection Requirements

This legislation refers to the storage and transfer of personal data and has nothing to do with live streaming.

**Child Protection Act:** There are two sentences which refer to the taking and distribution of indecent images and videos. Therefore this Act is not relevant to a UK Christian online church service.

**Child Safety:** There are no regulations preventing the transmission of video online showing children.

**"You are not allowed to show children on online videos"** Not true; there are no laws or court orders prohibiting you showing children online (unless they are indecent).

**"The church is not a public space, it's like a school"**

A public space is defined as any area which is not privately owned (private land owners can grant permission) and where the public are free to enter, eg, parks, walk ways, shopping areas and other municipal areas. Schools come under different legislation and are not true public spaces. Churches however, are freely open to the public and are public spaces. This means you can freely photograph or video anyone no matter the age.

**"Members of our congregation would object"**. I have yet to meet anyone after talking to them about the benefits of the church going online who then objects. It's usually easy to provide seating areas out of camera view.

**"The Police can stop anyone filming!"** Not true; see the ACPO guidance to Police officers.

**Copyright issues:** go to CCLI (see the link). They are the best ones to speak to.

**Do we need  
permission to film in our church?  
What about filming children?**