

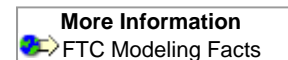
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## Know Your Rights When Modeling Children

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**NEW YORK --** So you want to find the most beautiful baby in the world? That's easy -- just ask any new parent.

If your child's cuteness has you considering a modeling career, you should know your consumer rights.



And with modeling agencies, it's all about what's in the contract. A Manhattan family called NewsChannel 4's Asa Aarons for help when they encountered a problem...

Kelly Dacus-Smith thought she saw a great opportunity to enter her baby girl, Miranda Jane, into the world of modeling.

"We've heard comments about our baby about how beautiful she is, so we thought we'll just go in, see what the story is see, what they say, and see if there's work for her," Dacus-Smith said.

They went to Adkids Modeling Office after seeing an ad in a newspaper.

"The guy seemed very interested and very excited by her, saying, 'Oh, we don't have many kids her age, she's perfect for this. What's your schedule? Are you available for auditions, interviews,'" Dacus-Smith said.

She said the offer was just what she was looking for.

"We were very excited. Initially, we walked in saying we weren't going to spend any money, but he made it all seem very reasonable," Dacus-Smith said.

The cost for the service was \$630 for five years, including photos of Miranda. Dacus-Smith only had one hesitation.

"We talked in the initial interview that my husband may be getting another job and we may be moving. He said if that happens, then you don't have to pay the rest," she said.

Her husband did get the job, and they made plans to move -- but their refund never arrived.

That's when they called Asa.

The Federal Trade Commission offers this advice to everyone considering a modeling agreement:

- Never sign a document without reading and understanding it first.
- Beware of companies that only accept payment in cash or money order.
- Be wary of claims about high salaries.
- Ask for and check references.

- Ask your local Better Business Bureau, consumer protection agency and state Attorney General about the company.
- Get everything in writing.

NewsChannel 4 contacted the owner of Adkids Modeling, who looked into the Smith's case and said they were supposed to send him proof of their change of residence. After they did that, he proceeded to give them the refund as promised.

Remember to get all agreements in writing and provide proof of anything when asked.

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