



**Standards and  
Protocols  
for the Use of  
Intimacy  
Coordinators**

\*\*\*EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE 8 A.M.  
EST, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29\*\*\*

*January 2020*

# Intimacy Coordinators

Nudity and simulated sex often have an important role in the telling of a story, whether in the film, television or interactive world. Although performances in these scenes convey strong feelings and powerful emotions to an audience which can be integral to a storyline, SAG-AFTRA also recognizes the unique vulnerability that arises for performers when performing hyper-exposed work.

SAG-AFTRA believes that implementation of the following standards and protocols for the use of intimacy coordinators will allow productions to run more efficiently, provide a safety net for performers and establish specialized support that empowers both cast and crew.

## What is an intimacy coordinator?

An **intimacy coordinator** is an advocate, a liaison between actors and production, and a movement coach and/or choreographer in regards to nudity and simulated sex and other intimate and hyper-exposed scenes.

## What does an intimacy coordinator do?

- Acts as an advocate who serves as a liaison between actors and a production;
- Ensures that performers and other production personnel adhere to proper safety protocols;
- Serves as a resource in realizing a director's vision;
- Assumes the role of a movement choreographer if requested by the director to enhance believability;
- Strives to build an environment in which actors understand what is expected of them in hyper-exposed scenes and to give their **informed and continued consent**.

## When do you use an intimacy coordinator?

SAG-AFTRA believes that intimacy coordinators should be hired in scenes involving nudity or simulated sex or upon request for other intimate and hyper-exposed scenes.

# **How does an intimacy coordinator provide value to both performers and production?**

For **performers**, an intimacy coordinator:

- Provides an important safety net for performers working in hyper-exposed scenes that respects the boundaries of actors.

For a **production company**, an intimacy coordinator:

- Ensures the safety of personnel in hyper-exposed scenes, facilitates coordination between production departments to fulfill the director's vision and helps to reduce financial, insurance or market related risks as well as avoid any unnecessary production delays.

## **An Overview of the Standards and Protocols for the Use of Intimacy Coordinators**

The standards and protocols provide a framework for the use of professional, skilled intimacy coordinators throughout the entire production process (pre-production, on-set and post-production), and are designed to protect performers and facilitate exchange and collaboration with the least disruption to the production.

For questions, please contact us at [intimacy@sagaftra.org](mailto:intimacy@sagaftra.org)

# Recommended Standards and Protocols for the Use of Intimacy Coordinators

## Intimacy Coordinators Serve as Professional Skilled Artists, with Broad Industry Knowledge, Skills and Training

As industry professionals, intimacy coordinators work closely with production personnel to realize the director's vision while promoting adherence to safety related terms and conditions.

The following are key areas of experience, expertise and training required to execute the responsibilities of the position:

### Experience, Expertise and Training

- Awareness of on screen sexual and intimate storytelling.
- Communication.
- Power dynamics.
- Movement coaching and masking techniques.
- Knowledge and collaboration regarding the use of modesty garments and barriers for safety, comfort and sexual health.
- Navigation of on-set culture and understanding of on-set etiquette.
- Understanding of Guild and Union Contracts that affect nudity and simulated sex.
- Movement and Safety in facilitating the physicality of scenes.
- Consent.
- Bystander Intervention
- Anti-Harassment.
- Mental Health First Aid/Trauma.
- Gender and Sexual Diversity or Sensitivity.

### Additional Requirements

- Must have a state and federal background check.
- Shadowing or mentorship experience and an ability to adapt and implement the role's responsibilities, functions and protocols on a variety of sets.

# Protocols for Intimacy Coordinators in the Production Process

The intimacy coordinator:

## Pre-Production

- Meets with the executive producer/writer and director at a minimum, to discuss details of script breakdown and intimate scenes to determine: 1) degree of nudity, 2) specifics of simulated sex (as applicable), and 3) any other pertinent details.
- Ensures clear communication with actors regarding any nudity, simulated sex or hyper-exposed situation.
- Meets one-on-one with performers prior to the rehearsal and filming of an intimate scene and confirms consent for the descriptive language to be used in the nudity or simulated sex rider, and any other consideration for the filming of the scene.
- Ensures continued consent during rehearsal process.
- Facilitates resolution of any discrepancies in agreements or expectations between actors and productions.
- Communicates and as needed collaborates with departments such as assistant directors, costumes, props and makeup to ensure that the performers are provided with appropriate nudity garments, barriers, and prosthetics to reflect rider details.

## On-Set

- Reviews nudity riders, scene content, modesty garments and barriers with performers, directors and assistant directors.
- Ensures the proper implementation of closed-set protocols and SAG-AFTRA Guidelines.
- Serves as a resource for directors and assistant directors (as needed) with any specialized movement or choreography to ensure consent and safety while enhancing believability and director vision.
- Ensures continued consent throughout the filming of scene (both consent to what their likeness is seen performing, and how the action is achieved) while minimizing interference in production flow.
- Protects minors, consistent with SAG-AFTRA Guidelines.

## Post-Production

- Is available for support post-filming, if performers have questions or concerns.
- May verify that a final cut is consistent with contractual obligations and riders.



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**Gabrielle Carteris**  
*SAG-AFTRA President*

Gabrielle Carteris was re-elected SAG-AFTRA president on August 29, 2019. She was first elected SAG-AFTRA president on April 9, 2016 and previously served as the elected executive vice president from 2013-2016. She is the chair of the National TV/Theatrical Contracts Negotiating Committee and leads the President's Task Force on Education, Outreach and Engagement. In August 2016, Carteris was elected as a vice president on the AFL-CIO's executive council, re-elected in 2017 and co-leads a sexual harassment workgroup. She is a founding ambassador of ReFrame, an initiative of Women In Film and Sundance Institute to further gender parity in the media industry. In 2017, Carteris was appointed commissioner to the Industrywide Commission on Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace. She serves as a trustee of the American Film Institute, and also represents SAG-AFTRA with the International Federation of Actors (FIA).

Carteris became a household name playing Andrea Zuckerman on the Aaron Spelling drama *Beverly Hills, 90210* and recently starred in *BH90210*, a revival of the iconic show. The success of the show allowed Carteris to get involved with many great organizations, including DARE, Noxzema Extraordinary Teen program, MADD, Read to Grow, Best Buddies and the Sky's The Limit Fund. In August 2016, she was honored by the Jewish Labor Committee Western Region with the Elinor Glenn Leadership Award.

As a producer, Carteris created *Lifestories*, a series of specials and *Gabrielle*, a talk show that she hosted. A fierce advocate for inclusion and equity for all, Carteris is a sought-after speaker and panelist on diversity topics and led the union's fight to pass California's "IMDb Law," which helps mitigate rampant age discrimination in entertainment and other industries. In 2016, she testified before the California Senate Judiciary Committee, authored editorials and organized a letter, fax and email campaign to urge Governor Brown to sign AB 1687.

In 2008, Carteris served the Screen Actors Guild as fifth alternate national director, in 2009 as first alternate national director and in 2010 she began a three-year term as a national board member. Her previous American Federation of Television and Radio Artists service includes two consecutive terms on the AFTRA Los Angeles Local Board and the AFTRA National Board, three terms as an AFTRA convention delegate in the actor category and, in 2011, she was elected Los Angeles Local president and national second vice president. She was a part of the G1 (Group for One Union) and helped with developing the plan to merge SAG and AFTRA. She served SAG-AFTRA during the transition year as national vice president, Los Angeles.

She was listed on Variety's Power of Women L.A. Impact Report 2016 and on The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment Power 100 list in 2016 and 2017, and was included in THR's Women in Entertainment issue in 2018. In 2019 she received a Career Achievement and Legacy Award from Vancouver Film School, and was also a featured speaker and panelist at the Beijing International Film Festival and Film Financing Summit.



**David P. White**  
*SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director*

David White is the national executive director and chief negotiator of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artist (SAG-AFTRA). In this role, White serves as chief executive officer and strategist for the world's largest entertainment union with approximately 160,000 members worldwide who work in film, television, broadcast news, commercials, music, video games and emerging media.

Prior to rejoining SAG-AFTRA, where he previously served as general counsel from 2002 to 2006, White was managing principal of Los Angeles-based Entertainment Strategies Group LLC, providing consulting services to the entertainment industry. He was a labor and employment attorney at O'Melveny & Myers LLP before joining the executive ranks of SAG-AFTRA. Prior to law school, White was the executive director of an innovative youth services organization, Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

A Rhodes Scholar, White is a graduate of Grinnell College, Stanford Law School and The Queen's College, Oxford University. He serves as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and USC's Center for the Digital Future. He is past board chair and current trustee of the SAG-AFTRA Health Plan, past board chair and current trustee of the SAG-Producers Pension Plan, former chair of the board of trustees of Grinnell College, and former vice chair of the Industry Advancement and Cooperative Fund. He is a trustee of the AFTRA Retirement Fund, a board member of the Motion Picture and Television Fund, the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, and The Actors Fund. White serves as a Commissioner for the *Industry Commission on Eliminating Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace*, and is a member of both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

White has served as a Los Angeles area commissioner for urban planning and development. He has been a contributing writer for the *Los Angeles Lawyer*, has been featured in various publications including the *Los Angeles Magazine*, and has served as a commentator on national and industry publications, and television and radio shows. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the John M. Langston Bar Association's Attorney of the Year award (2014), the National Bar Association's Entertainment, Sports & Art Law Section Attorney of the Year (2010), and the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel's Labor and Personal Representation Counsel of the Year (2009).





**Amanda Blumenthal**  
**Founder, Intimacy Professionals Association**

The first intimacy coordinator in Los Angeles, Amanda Blumenthal is the founder of [Intimacy Professionals Association](#) (IPA), which trains and certifies intimacy coordinators. Additionally, IPA is the first agency in the world to specialize in representing intimacy professionals, including intimacy coordinators, trans consultants, and gender and sexuality consultants with expertise in subjects such as BDSM, kink, LGBTQIA+ topics (including non-binary and gender non-conforming identities), and other areas. As a leader in the field of intimacy work, IPA is able to connect productions with professionals who are appropriately matched to their project.

Amanda is an experienced intimacy professional and is passionate about creating safe spaces on set in which actors can do their best work. Prior to her career as an intimacy coordinator, she worked as a sex and relationship coach. Amanda completed advanced training in the Somatica method and provided clients with a unique therapeutic experience that combined verbal and somatic processing. She is a trauma-aware and kink-friendly professional and uses this expertise to inform her work as an intimacy coordinator.

Amanda has been actively involved with advocacy work related to sexuality since college, serving in leadership positions in groups such as Advocates for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Sex Positive Los Angeles. As a member of these groups she has led workshops on LGBTQIA+ topics, consent, kink, and many other subjects. She graduated from the University of Southern California School of Gerontology with a degree in Human Development and Aging.

She is also a member of the Time's Up Safety Working Group and a contributor to the Time's Up Guide to Working in Entertainment. Additionally, she consulted on the Producer's Guild of America's recently released Independent Project Safety Initiative. Amanda is a sought-after speaker on the topic of intimacy coordination and has spoken on panels and as a lecturer for organizations including Time's Up, Women in Film, Film Independent, the American Film Market, the Women's Production Society, and the USC Peter Stark Producing Program.

To date, Amanda has coordinated well over two hundred and fifty scenes of intimacy. Some of Amanda's intimacy coordinator credits include *Euphoria* (HBO: Season 1), *The Affair* (Showtime: Season 5), *The L Word: Generation Q* (Showtime: Season 1), *Carnival Row* (Amazon: Season 2), *Sorry For Your Loss* (Facebook Watch: Season 2), *How To Get Away With Murder* (ABC: Season 6), *The Voyeurs* (Amazon Feature Film), and *For All Mankind* (Apple TV+: Season 2).



**Alicia Rodis**

*Associate Director and co-founder of Intimacy Directors International*

Alicia Rodis pioneered the role of intimacy coordinator in the United States. She serves as the intimacy coordinator for HBO studios, consulting on their policies and protocols as well as training and vetting the IC's working on HBO sets. She is a co-founder of Intimacy Directors International (IDI) and is a part of the creative team behind the new company Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC), which specializes in training performers and industry professionals to better approach intimate scenes, as well as trains and certifies intimacy coordinators for film and intimacy directors and choreographers for theatre.

An actor and dancer from a young age, Alicia attended Wright State University for Acting, and in the NY industry, she began specializing in movement, choreography, and staged violence. Her professional experience as an actor, fight choreographer, and stunt performer, eventually led her towards the choreography and coordination of romantic, sexual, and highly suggestive scenes.

Seeing an unfilled need, in 2015 Alicia co-founded the not-for-profit Intimacy Directors International with the progenitor of the phrase 'intimacy choreographer,' Tonia Sina. Together, they created an organization to research and promote the role of intimacy professionals in tv, film, and theater. She and her colleagues worked with directors, choreographers, psychologists, social workers, trauma experts, and other professionals to research and codify a system of addressing the performance of nudity, simulated sex, and intimacy.

After being hired by *The Deuce* on HBO, Alicia worked with long-time producer Nina Noble to craft a better system for intimacy on a major television series. A system that is now becoming the industry standard. Since then, Alicia has been advising best practices regarding the prevention of sexual harassment for theatre and film internationally and training new coordinators to fill the huge demand for safer and more authentic scenes of intimacy in film and TV. Alicia also choreographs at, helps develop intimacy protocols with, and has educated faculty and students for such places as The Juilliard School, New York University, Columbia University, and the Yale School of Drama where she intimacy choreographed the first production of Jeremy O'Harris's "Slave Play".

Alicia is an LGBTQIA+ and diversity advocate, a Mental Health First Aid and consent educator, and is trained in bystander intervention. This underpins her ethical and holistic approach to intimate scenes. She serves as a member of the Times Up Safety Committee and was extensively consulted on their newly released Safety Guidelines entitled *Your Rights: Nude and Intimate Scenes*. Alicia has also consulted with The Hollywood Commission, ACTRA, The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), and, of course, is thrilled to be working with SAG-AFTRA on standardized intimacy protocols.

Alicia has intimacy coordinated on *The Deuce* (S2, S3), *Watchmen*, *Plot Against America*, *Crashing* (S3), *High Maintenance* (S4), *I Know This Much Is True*, *The Undoing*, and *Lovecraft Country* as well as trained the coordinators on *Euphoria*, *Succession*, *Mrs. Fletcher*, *The Outsider*, *The Righteous Gemstones*, *Westworld* and many others.