

Ages At Which Children Are Legally Entitled To Carry Out Certain Acts

Belgium		
Acts	Age	Observations
1. Majority a. civil majority b. penal majority c. penal minority	18 18 16	The juvenile's court authority may be terminated once the child is 16.
2. Emancipation	15	
3. Marriage a. without consent of appropriate authority b. with parental consent c. with consent of the appropriate authority	18 18 unspecified	On serious grounds by decision of juvenile court.
4. Work a. full time b. part-time c. apprenticeship	18 15 or 16 15 or 16	15 years if the child has completed first two years of secondary education 15 years if the child has completed first two years of secondary education
5. Residence	18	
6. Contracts a. without parental consent b. with parental consent	unspecified unspecified	To be applied with moderation and common sense and court may void.
7. Will	16	
8. Purchase of certain products a. alcohol b. tobacco	unspecified unspecified	
9. Religion (refuse or change)	18	
10. Adoption (refuse to agree to adoption)	15	
11. Name (refuse to change name)	18	
12. Nationality	18	
13. Medical matters (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)	unspecified	If it is impossible or inadvisable to seek legal representative's opinion (Code of Medical Ethics)
14. Recognition of a child	unspecified	
15. Personal matters (give his opinion)	unspecified	
16. Legal proceedings a. take part in court decision b. request court appointment of legal representative other than parents c. inform court of self-concerning matters	18 years unless... unspecified unspecified	18 years unless the law provides otherwise or the court decides otherwise. Recent case law entitles minors to bring legal proceedings on their own to uphold a personal right. In the event of a conflict of interest, the court may appoint an ad hoc guardian.

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17. Army a. enlist in armed forces b. active national service	16 18	Army cadet training. Military service abolished.
18. Savings accounts a. deposits b. withdrawals	unspecified 16	Limited to 5,000 Belgian francs per month.
19. Passport	18	Interpretation by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
20. Participation in the functioning of the school system	unspecified	Varies from one school to the other

Source: Council of Europe (1998). *Ages at which children are legally entitled to carry out a series of acts in Council of Europe member countries*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.