

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

France		
Acts	Age	Observations
1. Majority		
a. civil majority	18	
b. penal majority	18	
c. penal minority	13	
2. Emancipation	16	"commercial" emancipation
3. Marriage		
a. without consent of appropriate authority	18	
b. with parental consent	15	For women
c. with consent of the appropriate authority		In the event of parental refusal, or if the child is under 15 years of age, the public prosecutor's concern may be sought in exceptional circumstances.
4. Work	16	
a. full time	14	During school holidays.
b. part-time		
c. apprenticeship	15	
5. Residence		
6. Contracts		If the child's understanding is sufficient.
a. without parental consent		
b. with parental consent		
7. Will	16 18	For half the property.
8. Purchase of certain products		
a. alcohol	14-16	Dessert wines, beer, cider
b. tobacco	16-18	Beverages with less than 18% alcohol content.
9. Religion (refuse or change)		No regulation. Appraisal on the basis of criteria of educational assistance or parental authority (art. 372-1-1 of civil code)
10. Adoption (refuse to agree to adoption)	13 15	In the case of full adoption In the case of simple adoption. (since Act of 8.01.93)
11. Name (refuse to change name)	13	
12. Nationality	16	Opting for French nationality
13. Medical matters (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)	18	Except contraception
14. Recognition of a child		If a child's understanding is sufficient.
15. Personal matters (give his opinion)		Understanding: Act of 8 January 1993.
16. Legal proceedings		
a. take part in court decision	18	Unless the case is referred to the juvenile court.
b. request court appointment of legal representative other than parents		The family court has jurisdiction in the matter irrespective of the child's age, provided child's understanding is sufficient for an ad hoc administrator to be appointed (Act of 8 Jan. 1993)
c. inform court of self-concerning matters		Application to the court for a hearing already dealing with the case, at any age, in all matters, provided that the child's understanding is sufficient (Act of 8 January 1993).

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17. Army a. enlist in armed forces b. active national service	17 18	
18. Savings accounts a. deposits b. withdrawals	15	At any age. With legal representative's consent.
19. Passport	15	
20. Participation in the functioning of the school system	12	

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.