

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

Germany		
Acts	Age	Observations
1. Majority		
a. civil majority	18	
b. penal majority	18-21	Depending on children's maturity juvenile criminal law; 21 : full age of criminal responsibility.
c. penal minority	14	Conditional criminal responsibility; juvenile criminal law is applied.
2. Emancipation	18	
3. Marriage		
a. without consent of appropriate authority	18	
b. with parental consent	16	
c. with consent of the appropriate authority	16	
4. Work		
a. full time	15	There are, however, exceptions. 3: musical events up to 2 hours/day, 6: theatre performances :4 hours/day, musical performances: 3 hours/day. 13: in agriculture: up to 3 hours/day helping hand; in sports and delivering newspapers: up to 2 hours/day
b. part-time	3/6/13	
c. apprenticeship	15	
5. Residence	18	Exception: 16 if the child is married
6. Contracts		
a. without parental consent	18	Exception: as of 7: contracts bringing only legal advantages for the child (donation)
b. with parental consent	7	
7. Will	16	Before a notary.
8. Purchase of certain products		
a. alcohol	16	Exception: spirits
b. tobacco	16	
9. Religion (refuse or change)	14	But as of 12 a religious education in another denomination against the child's will is not possible.
10. Adoption (refuse to agree to adoption)	14	
11. Name (refuse to change name)	14	5-14: consent is given by the statutory representative, as of 14 the child's consent is required
12. Nationality	18	
13. Medical matters (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)	18	
14. Recognition of a child	18	
15. Personal matters (give his opinion)	without restriction	
16. Legal proceedings		
a. take part in court decision	14	No restriction as to age.
b. request court appointment of legal representative other than parents	14	
c. inform court of self-concerning matters	-	
17. Army		
a. enlist in armed forces	18	
b. active national service	18	

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18. Savings accounts a. Deposits b. withdrawals		Without parent's consent: 18. With the parents' consent also at an earlier age; usually the banks open current accounts for minors with their parents' consent as of about 15 years
19. Passport	16	The possession of an identity card is compulsory.
20. Participation in the functioning of the school system		There is no uniform regulation throughout the Federal Republic of Germany.

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