

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

| <b>Iceland</b>   |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Acts   | Age                       | Observations  |
| <b>1. Majority</b><br>a. <b>civil majority</b><br>b. <b>penal majority</b><br><br>c. <b>penal minority</b>   | 16<br>18                  | Personal majority<br>Full legal majority<br>Children under age of 15 are not liable according to Icelandic penal code.  |
| <b>2. Emancipation</b>   | 16                        |   |
| <b>3. Marriage</b><br>a. <b>without consent of appropriate authority</b><br>b. <b>with parental consent</b><br>c. <b>with consent of the appropriate authority</b>   | 18<br><br>no specific age | No specific rules.  |
| <b>4. Work</b><br>a. <b>full time</b><br>b. <b>part-time</b><br>c. <b>apprenticeship</b>   |                           | No specific rules but children under age of 14 may only work light.<br>Work which does not involve serious risk.  |
| <b>5. Residence</b>  | 16                        |   |
| <b>6. Contracts</b><br>a. <b>without parental consent</b><br>b. <b>with parental consent</b>   | 16                        | Age 18 if the contract puts financial obligation on child<br>No specific rules.   |
| <b>7. Will</b>   | 18                        |   |
| <b>8. Purchase of certain products</b><br>a. <b>alcohol</b><br>b. <b>tobacco</b>   | 20<br>16                  |   |
| <b>9. Religion</b> (refuse or change)  | 16                        |   |
| <b>10. Adoption</b> (refuse to agree to adoption)  | 12                        |   |
| <b>11. Name</b> (refuse to change name)  | 16                        |   |
| <b>12. Nationality</b>   | 18                        |   |
| <b>13. Medical matters</b> (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)  | 16                        |   |
| <b>14. Recognition of a child</b>  | No specific age           | The declaration must be confirmed by a legal guardian if the father under age 18 years.   |
| <b>15. Personal matters</b> (give his opinion)   | 16                        | Parents have general obligation to consult a child under age 16, if possible, before taking a decision regarding his personal affairs.  |
| <b>16. Legal proceedings</b><br>a. <b>take part in court decision</b><br>b. <b>request court appointment of legal representative other than parents</b><br>c. <b>inform court of self-concerning matters</b> | 16 or 18<br>-             | Depending on the nature of the case.<br>No right, but in custody and child welfare cases the authority concerned can of its own motion appoint a spokesperson for the child.<br>* |

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| <b>17. Army</b><br>a. enlist in armed forces<br>b. active national service |    | Not relevant   |
| <b>18. Savings accounts</b><br>a. deposits<br>b. withdrawals               |    | No coordinated rules. According to the Icelandic law on guardianship, children are entitled to administer the money they earn themselves, as well as money they receive as a gift as long as the amount is within reasonable limits. |
| <b>19. Passport</b>  | 16 |  |
| <b>20. Participation in the functioning of the school system</b>           | 16 |  |

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.

\*A child who has reached age 12 has a right to give his opinion in own custody and child welfare cases. The same can apply for a younger child depending on age and maturity. A child who has reached age of 15 can act as a witness in a civil case and even younger child if the judge so decides. In penal cases the decision to call a child as a witness should be taken by the judge in view of the majority of the child.