

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

Sweden		
Acts	Age	Observations
1. Majority		
a. civil majority	18	
b. penal majority	18	
c. penal minority	15	
2. Emancipation		
3. Marriage		
a. without consent of appropriate authority		
b. with parental consent		
c. with consent of the appropriate authority	17	
4. Work		
a. full time	16	May dispose of own earnings.
b. part-time	14	
c. apprenticeship		
5. Residence		
6. Contracts		
a. without parental consent	-	If the child's understanding is sufficient (for property inherited or received by donation, provided that the child is capable of disposing of it oneself.
b. with parental consent	-	If the child's understanding is sufficient.
7. Will	16	For property placed at child's disposal.
8. Purchase of certain products		
a. alcohol	20	
b. tobacco		
9. Religion (refuse or change)	15	
10. Adoption (refuse to agree to adoption)	12	
11. Name (refuse to change name)	12	
12. Nationality	15	A child born outside of wedlock of a mother of other than Swedish nationality, who is in the custody of his/her Swedish father may, at this age, refuse to take Swedish nationality.
13. Medical matters (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)		
14. Recognition of a child	-	If the child's understanding is sufficient.
15. Personal matters (give his opinion)		It is proposed that children should be able to give their opinion if their understanding is sufficient.
16. Legal proceedings		
a. take part in court decision	15	Regarding social welfare services and the case of children placed with a third party or in a specialist institution, where financial matters are concerned. Where a third party has already been awarded custody.
b. request court appointment of legal representative other than parents	16	
c. inform court of self-concerning matters		
17. Army		
a. enlist in armed forces		
b. active national service		
18. Savings accounts		
a. deposits		
b. withdrawal		
19. Passport		

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20. Participation in the functioning of the school system		
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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.