

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

Switzerland		
Acts	Age	Observations
1. Majority a. civil majority b. penal majority c. penal minority	18 - -see above	7-15 children; 15-18; adolescents; 18-25; young adults.
2. Emancipation		
3. Marriage a. without consent of appropriate authority b. with parental consent c. with consent of the appropriate authority	18	For men and women.
4. Work a. full time b. part-time c. apprenticeship	15 14 15	Provided that compulsory education has been completed. With parental consent for night and Sunday work. During school holidays and subject to strict conditions. From 13, no more than 3 hours/day. With parental consent and after completion of compulsory education (9 years).
5. Residence	18	
6. Contracts a. without parental consent b. with parental consent	-	If the child's understanding is sufficient (parental consent sometimes necessary) In principle this is necessary
7. Will	18	
8. Purchase of certain products a. alcohol b. tobacco	16 -	No statutory provisions.
9. Religion (refuse or change)	16	
10. Adoption (refuse to agree to adoption)	-	No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding.
11. Name (refuse to change name)	-	No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding.
12. Nationality	-	For naturalization, 18 years; from the age of 16, their written consent is necessary
13. Medical matters (refuse to allow doctor to inform parents)	-	No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding.
14. Recognition of a child	18	
15. Personal matters (give his opinion)	-	No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding.
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	-	By intermediary of his/her legal representative, exceptionally. For strictly personal rights, etc, and with sufficient understanding. No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding. No fixed age limit given sufficient understanding.

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17. Army a. enlist in armed forces b. active national service	20 -	On request at the age of 18. Does not exist in Switzerland.
18. Savings accounts a. deposits b. withdrawal	- -	No fixed age limit; minors of sufficient understanding may dispose of their earnings and deal independently with a bank.
19. Passport	18	
20. Participation in the functioning of the school system	no age limit	

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.