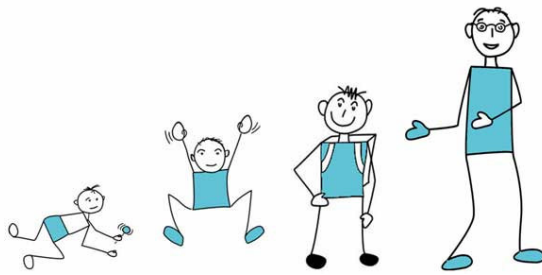


Rights and obligations of children and young people



child	0-14 years
juvenile/adolescent	14-18 years
young adult	18-21 years

In Germany there is the youth protection law (**Jugendschutzgesetz**). It defines age limits to protect children and adolescents. It also works as a useful guidance for parents and supports a responsible education. Adults (shop assistants, hosts, parents and educators) are responsible for youth protection!

Examples...

...from the age of 7

- **Limited capacity**

Children are not allowed to close contracts. But they can buy little things with their pocket money without the permission of their parents – „Taschengeldparagraph“ see below.

...from the age of 13

- **Easy jobs**

Easy jobs like newspaper delivering, babysitting or giving school help are allowed with permission of parents. However they are limited to two hours a day between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

...from the age of 14

- **Choice of religion**

Adolescents are allowed to choose their religion autonomously.

- **Vacation**

With permission of the parents or guardians (written form and a copy of the parents' passport), adolescents are allowed to go on vacation alone.

- **Adoption**

Adolescents have the right not to be adopted against their will from the age of 14.

- **Limited criminal responsibility**

Adolescents have a limited criminal responsibility, that means it is possible that they can be made accountable according to „Jugendstrafrecht“ (juvenile criminal law).

...from the age of 15

- **Holiday job**

Up to 4 weeks fulltime holiday job is allowed (ca. 35-40h per week) within one year, but no piece-work and night-work.

- **Motor vehicles**

Adolescents are allowed to drive motor vehicles up to 25km/h (e.g. Mofas)

...from the age of 16

- **Eligibility for swearing an oath**

Adolescents are eligible to swear an oath in judicial proceedings.

- **duty to provide evidence of identity**

Every German who reached the 16th year of life has the duty to own an effective passport.

- **Limited capacity to contract marriage**

With permission of their parents, adolescents can apply to be able to marry. Another requirement is that the future husband or wife is of full age.

...from the age of 17

- **Drivers licence with 17**

Young people in Germany are allowed to drive a motor vehicle, class B, with 17 if a chaperon joins them.

...from the age of 18

- **Legal age**

If you complete your 18th year of age, you have legal age. Due to this you have nearly all rights and obligations of an adult. Guardians are not in their function anymore. The young adults are responsible for themselves.

- **No prohibitions of entry**

Full aged adolescents have access to amusement halls and are allowed to stay on all official places (even so called „harmful to juveniles“ places) without time limit as well as in cinemas, Restaurants and Discos.

- **No age limit**

All films and videogames can be bought and used.

- **Suffrage**

Full aged adolescents are allowed to elect actively and passively.

- **Marriage**

Full aged adolescents are marriageable without a limit.

- **Capacity to contract**

With full age of 18 you have capacity to contract. That means you can sign agreements for sale, hire contracts and credit contracts on your own.

- **Responsibility for torts**

With full age of 18 also the responsibility for torts comes into effect. That means that young adults are responsible for the damages they did and have to make amends for things they damaged.

...from the age of 21

- **Accountability**

With fulfilling the 21st year of age, young adults are fully accountable. In case of a court hearing they will be treated with the law for adults. If the 21st year is not fully fulfilled, there may be exceptions.

How long adolescents are allowed to go out/go clubbing?

Ort	Alter	Uhrzeit	Besonderheiten
Disco	under 16		only in company of a guardian
	from 16	until midnight	in company of a full aged friend
	from 18	no limit	
concerts	no official age limit		permission of parents required
youthclubs, associations and churches	under 14	until 10pm	
	14-16	until midnight	appropriate agency can give exceptions
cinema	under 14	until 8pm	the film has to end at 8pm
	14-16	until 10pm	the film has to end at 10pm
	16-18	until midnight	the film has to end at midnight

nightclubs: nightclubs, bars and amusement halls are prohibited under 18!

Hosts and sales people are responsible for the youth protection! There can be a monetary up to 50.000€.

From what age adolescents are allowed to drink alcohol?

	under 14	14 - 15	16 - 17	18+
beer	illegal	only in company of parents	allowed	allowed
wine/sparkling wine	illegal	only in company of parents	allowed	allowed
mixed drink with wine or beer	illegal	only in company of parents	allowed	allowed
mixed drink with spirits	illegal	illegal	illegal	allowed
spirits	illegal	illegal	illegal	allowed

From what age adolescents are allowed to smoke cigarettes?

18 and over! Sale and transfer of tobacco goods to children and adolescents is prohibited. Also the consume under 18 is prohibited. →cigarette automat will check the age of the buyer (ec-card or driver's license)

tattoos/piercings/plastic surgery

To pierce and to tattoo is, legally speaking, a personal injury but it is unpunished because it happens voluntarily. Without consent of the parents not under 18! Adolescents should be very careful with the choice of the studio because of hygienic terms. Plastic surgery: only with permission of the parents!

pocket money

„Taschengeldparagraph“ (pocket money paragraph) in BGB (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch): children younger than 7 are not legally competent, that means if a 6 year old is buying something, parents can bring it back to the shop to get the money back. From the age of 7 a child is allowed to buy something with its pocket money. But under 18 it is not allowed to children to close written contracts e.g. mobile phone contracts, journal subscription, loans and it is not allowed to buy things which are illegal to youngsters anyway (cigarettes, alcohol, arms etc.)

Recommendation given by child protective service about pocket money:

age	pocket money
4 - 5	50 Cent weekly
6 - 7	1,50 to 2 Euro weekly
8 - 9	2 to 3 Euro weekly
10 -11	13 to 16 Euro monthly
12 -13	20 to 22 Euro monthly
14 -15	25 to 30 Euro monthly
16 -17	35 to 45 Euro monthly
18	70 Euro monthly

contraception/contraceptive pill

- Youth protection law: sex under the age of 14 is prohibited
- Sexual acts of full aged people with children under 14 are abuse and are accusable!
- If both partners are between 16 and 18 and it happens voluntarily, it is ok
- Contraceptive pill: under 14 you need the permission of your parents
- From the age of 14: the doctor decides about the maturity of the girl to take the pill
- If she thinks she's mature enough, medical confidentiality towards the parents is valid