WHAT CAN I DO AT MY AGE?

12 TODAY!

14

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER!

cl@n childlaw

The Scottish Government
This booklet is intended as a guide and not an authoritative statement and interpretation of the law. The text in this booklet was provided by cl@n childlaw.

This booklet was issued on 31 March 2009. Since that date, it is possible that the law has changed. To check that any information is up to date, contact cl@n childlaw (www.clanchildlaw.org) on 075 275 66682 or by email at info@clanchildlaw.org.
WHAT CAN I DO AT MY AGE?

From birth
From age 2
From age 3
From age 5
From age 7
From age 8
From age 12
From age 13
From age 14
From age 15
From age 16
From age 17
From age 18
From age 21

02
03
03
04
05
05
06
08
08
09
10
13
14
16
At any age from birth you can:

- Be referred to a Children’s Hearing on care and protection grounds
- Hold a passport
- **Have a Bank/Building Society Savings Account**
  Often in the name of a child’s parent or guardian as trustee for the child, until the child is 7 or older
- **Own Premium Bonds**
  Held for a child under 16 by a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent or guardian
- **Have a Child Trust Fund**
  Children born after 1 September 2002 will receive a voucher worth at least £250 to open a Child Trust Fund account
- **Be employed as a performer**
- **See a PG or U film**
  U - Films which should be suitable for children aged 4 and over
  Uc - Films which are particularly suitable for pre-school children
  PG - Some scenes may be unsuitable for younger children, especially under 8
From age 2 you must:
- Pay a child fare on most flights

From age 3 you can:
- Start pre-school education
During the school term after you are 3
At age 5 you can:
- Start school at “school commencement date” (Usually in August) if 5 by “appropriate latest date” (usually by end of following February)

From age 5 you must:
- Pay a child fare on buses and trains
From age 7 you can:
- Take money out of a National Savings account
- Buy and sell National Savings certificates

From age 8 you can:
- Be held responsible for crimes
  Usually dealt with through the Children’s Hearings System until you are 16
From age 12 you can:

- Consent to your own adoption
- Make a will
- See a 12A film, unaccompanied by an adult (Under 12s must be accompanied by an adult)
- Rent or buy a 12 certificate film
- Apply to the Child Support Agency for maintenance payments from an absent parent
- Register as an organ donor
  Without parental consent
From age 12 you could:

- Be the subject of an Antisocial Behaviour Order (An ASBO)

From age 12 you must:

- Pay a full fare on most flights

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Class

**economy class**

Flight & Date  Gate  Seat

NYC 747  117629  36B

Class  Seat

**eco  36B**

From  Destination

glasgow  new york

Name  For airline use

C. McNeill  117629  ZZC64

Boarding Pass

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From age 12 you will be presumed sufficiently old and mature to:

- Express views about future arrangements for your care
- Instruct a lawyer in a civil (ie non-criminal) matter
- Access personal records
- Make a freedom of information request from a public authority
From age 13 you can:

- **Be employed occasionally by parents**
  Doing light gardening or farming work subject to the local authority byelaws where you live

- **Be employed by other people**
  Doing light work specified in, and subject to, the local authority byelaws where you live (e.g. your local newspaper shop to do a paper round)

- **Join a social networking site**
  Like Bebo, MySpace or Facebook

From age 14 you can:

- **Stand for election as:**
  - A Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament

- **Vote in an election for:**
  - A Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament

From age 14 you can be employed to do light work:

- **On weekdays or Sundays**
  For 2 hours per day (but only 1 hour before school) between 7 am and 7 pm

- **On Saturdays or in school holidays**
  For 5 hours per day

- **In school holidays**
  For 25 hours per week

- **In school term time**
  For 12 hours per week
From age 15 you can do light work as at 14 but:

- **On Saturdays or in school holidays**
  - For 8 hours per day

- **In school holidays**
  - For 35 hours per week

**From age 15 you can:**

- See a 15 certificate film

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*Widescreen Weekend*

**Big Screen Blockbuster**

12/03/2009 16:00

Row J

Price: £0.00

VAT No 0090001230
From age 16 you can:

- **Leave school**
  If you are 16 between 1 March and 30 September you can leave after 31 May of that year.
  If you are 16 between 1 October and the last day of February you can leave at the start of the Christmas holidays in that school year.

- **Leave home**
  Without your parent or guardian’s consent

- **Get married**

- **Enter into a civil partnership**

- **Consent to lawful sexual intercourse**

- **Get a full-time job and pay National Insurance**

- **Get the National Minimum Wage**
  At the rate for 16 and 17 year olds

- **Get a skin piercing, without parental consent**
  Under 16s need to be accompanied by a person with parental rights and responsibilities, who gives written consent to a piercing

- **Apply for a 10-year passport**

- **Be legally responsible for babysitting**

- **Buy a pet**

- **Enter into a legally-binding contract**
  If you are under 16, you can also do this if the contract is usual for someone of your age and its terms are not unreasonable

- **Get access to adoption records**
  If you are adopted

- **Record a change of name officially**
  Without parental consent
From age 16 you could:

- Be prosecuted in the District, Sheriff or High Court
- Be sent to a Young Offenders’ Institution

Under 16 you can be prosecuted in either the Sheriff Court or High Court, but only on the instructions of the Lord Advocate

From age 16 you must:

- Pay a full fare on buses and trains
  Unless you have a concession card
From age 16 you can:

- Consume beer, wine or cider
  With a meal in a restaurant
- Hold a licence to pilot a glider
- Hold a licence to drive a moped
- Buy National Lottery tickets and bet on the football pools
- Buy Premium Bonds
- Consent to medical treatment
  If you are under 16 you can also consent to medical treatment if you are capable of understanding the nature and possible consequences of the procedure and treatment
- Join the Armed Forces
  Army, Navy and Air Force (most trades)
  - Not as an officer
  - Need parental consent (if under 18)
  - Can apply from 15 years 9 months
- Stand for election as a Community Councillor:
  16 is the recommended minimum age at which you can stand for election as a Community Councillor
From age 17 you can:

- Hold a licence to drive a car, small motorcycle or tractor
- Hold a private pilot’s licence for an aeroplane
- Give blood
- Train to be an officer in the Armed Forces:
  - Army from 17 years 9 months
  - Navy from 17 years
  - Air Force from 17 years 6 months
- Train to be non-commissioned aircrew in the RAF
From age 18 you can:

- Vote in an election for your:
  - Local councillor
  - MP (UK Parliament)
  - MSP (Scottish Parliament)
  - MEP (European Parliament)
From age 18 you can:

- Buy alcohol in licensed premises and consume alcohol in a bar
- Get the National Minimum Wage
  At 18 you can generally get the National Minimum Wage at the rate for 18 to 21 year olds
- Hold a basic commercial pilot’s licence for an aeroplane
- Hold a licence to drive a medium-sized goods vehicle
- Stand for election as:
  - A local councillor
  - An MP (UK Parliament)
  - An MSP (Scottish Parliament)
- Serve as a juror
- See any film
- Hold a credit card
- Buy cigarettes
- Place a bet
- Get tattooed
- Buy or possess fireworks
From age 21 you can:

- **Hold a licence to drive any vehicle**
  Including large goods and passenger-carrying vehicles

- **Supervise a learner driver**
  If you have held a full driver’s licence for over 3 years

- **Stand for election as an MEP (European Parliament)**

From age 21 you could:

- Be sent to adult prison
AT WHAT AGE CAN I ...?
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to records</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASBO</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babysitting</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing your name</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil partnership</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jury duty</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving home</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passports</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piercings</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piloting an aeroplane</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual relationships</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social networking</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing for election</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tattoos</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proving my age</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Access to records:
- At 12 you are presumed to be sufficiently old and mature to:
  - Access personal records
  - Make a freedom of information request from a public authority

Adoption:
- You can be adopted at any age from birth until you reach the age of 18
- At 12, you have to be asked for your consent to your own adoption
- At 16, if you have been adopted, you have a right to access your adoption records

Alcohol:
- At 16, you can buy and consume beer, wine or cider with a meal in a restaurant, at the manager’s discretion
- At 18, you can buy alcohol in licensed premises and consume alcohol in a bar
- If you are under 18, the police can confiscate alcohol from you if you possess alcohol in a public place
**Armed Forces:**

- **At 15 years and 9 months, you can apply to join the Armed Forces (Army, Navy and RAF)**
  You will need your parent’s consent until you are 18

- **You cannot train to be an officer until you are:**
  - Army – from 17 years 9 months
  - Navy – from 17 years
  - Air Force – from 17 years 6 months

- **At 17 you can train as non-commissioned aircrew in the RAF**
ASBO (Antisocial Behaviour Order):

- At 12 you can be the subject of an Antisocial Behaviour Order (an ASBO)

Babysitting:

- At 16, you can be held legally responsible for babysitting

Changing your name:

- At 16 you can change your name officially without your parent’s consent
Child protection:
- You can be referred to a Children’s Hearing on care and protection grounds at any age from birth

Cinema:
- From birth, you can see a PG or U film
  - U - Films which should be suitable for children aged 4 and over
  - Uc - Films which are particularly suitable for pre-school children
  - PG - Some scenes may be unsuitable for younger children, especially under 8
- Under 12 you can view a 12A film if you are accompanied by an adult, but you must be 12 or over to rent, buy or view a 12 certificate film
- At 15 you can watch a 15 certificate film
- At 18 you can view all films, including those rated at 18 and 18R

Civil partnership:
- At 16, you can enter into a civil partnership

Contract:
- At 16, you can enter into a legally-binding contract. If you are under 16, you can also do this if the contract is usual for someone of your age and its terms are not unreasonable
Crime:

- **At 8, you can be held responsible for any criminal actions**
  You would normally be dealt with through the Children’s Hearings System until you reach the age of 16.
  If you were charged with murder, manslaughter or rape, you would likely be dealt with through the court system.

- **At 16 you can be prosecuted in the District Court, Sheriff Court or High Court**
  Under 16 you can be prosecuted in either the Sheriff Court or High Court, but only on the instructions of the Lord Advocate.

- **At 16 you can be detained in a Young Offenders’ Institution**

- **At 21 you can be sent to an adult prison for detention**
Driving:
- At 16 you can hold a licence to drive a moped
- At 17 you can hold a licence to drive a car, a small motorcycle or a tractor
- At 18 you can hold a licence to drive a medium-sized goods vehicle
- At 21 you can hold a licence to drive any vehicle Including large goods and passenger-carrying vehicles
- At 21 you can supervise a learner driver Provided you have held a full licence for more than 3 years

Fireworks:
- At 18, you can buy or possess fireworks
Gambling:
- At 16 you can buy National Lottery tickets and bet on the football pools
- At 18 you can place a bet

Jury duty:
- At 18 (and until you are 65) you can be asked to serve as juror in both civil and criminal cases

Lawyer:
- At 12 you are presumed to be sufficiently old and mature to instruct a solicitor in a civil (i.e., non-criminal) case
  Provided you have a general understanding of what it means to do so
Leaving home:
- At 16, you can leave home without your parent or guardian’s consent

Marriage:
- At 16, you can get married and you do not need your parent’s consent

Medical:
- At 12 you can register as an organ donor without your parent’s consent
- At 16 you can consent to any medical, surgical or dental treatment
- If you are under 16 you can consent to any medical, surgical or dental treatment
  If the medical practitioner treating you thinks that you can understand the nature and possible consequences of the proposed procedure or treatment
- At 17 you can be a blood donor
Money:
- **From birth, you can have a bank or building society account**
  It will usually be in your parent or guardian’s name until you are 7
- **From birth, you can own Premium Bonds**
  They will be held by your parent, grandparent, great-grandparent or guardian until you are 16
- **At 16 you can buy Premium Bonds on your own behalf**
- **Children born after 1 September 2002 are entitled to receive a voucher from the Government to open a Child Trust Fund account**
- **At 7 you can take money out of a National Savings account**
- **At 7 you can buy and sell National Savings certificates**
- **At 12 you can apply to the Child Support Agency for maintenance by an absent parent**
- **At 18 you can apply for a credit card**

Passports:
- **You can apply for a UK Passport from birth**
  A parent with parental responsibilities and rights generally has to sign an application for a UK Passport by a child under the age of 16
- **At 16 you can apply for a UK Passport on your own behalf**
- **If you are under 16 you can only apply for a 5-year passport**
- **At 16 you can apply for a 10-year passport**
Pets:
- At 16 you can buy a pet

Piercings:
- At 16 you can get a skin piercing without parental consent
  Under 16s need to be accompanied by a person with parental rights and responsibilities who gives written consent to the piercing

Piloting an aeroplane:
- At 16 you can hold a licence to pilot a glider
- At 17 you can hold a private pilot’s licence for an aeroplane
School:

- You can start attending pre-school education during the school term following your third birthday.
- If you will be 5 by the “appropriate latest date” (usually by end of following February), you can start school at the “school commencement date”, which is normally the start of the Autumn term.
- If you are 16 between 1 March and 30 September you can leave school on 31 May of that year.
- If you are 16 between 1 October and the last day of February you can leave school at the start of the Christmas holidays in that school year.
Sexual relationships:
- At 16 you can consent to:
  - Lawful sexual intercourse

Smoking:
- At 18 you can buy cigarettes

Social networking:
- At 13 you can join a social networking site
  Like Bebo, MySpace or Facebook

Standing for election:
- At 14 you can stand for election as:
  - A Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- At 16 you can stand for election as:
  - A Community Councillor
    16 is the recommended minimum age at which you can stand for election as a Community Councillor
- At 18 you can stand for election as:
  - A Member of your local council
  - An MP (UK Parliament)
  - An MSP (Scottish Parliament)
- At 21 you can stand for election as:
  - An MEP (European Parliament)

Tattoos:
- At 18, you can get a tattoo
Travel:

- **Buses & Trains:**
  - Under 5s travel free
  - At 5 you pay a child fare
  - At 16 you pay a full fare
    Unless you have a valid concession card

- **Flights:**
  - Under 2s travel free
  - At 2 you pay a child fare on most flights
  - At 12 you pay a full fare on most flights

Voting:

- **At 14 you can vote in an election for:**
  - A Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament

- **At 18 you can vote in an election for your:**
  - Local councillor
  - MP (UK Parliament)
  - MSP (Scottish Parliament)
  - MEP (European Parliament)
Work:

- **From birth you can be employed as a performer**

- **At 13 you can:**
  - Be employed occasionally by parents doing light gardening or farming work subject to the local authority byelaws where you live
  - Be employed by other people doing light work specified in, and subject to, the local authority byelaws where you live (e.g. your local newspaper shop to do a paper round)

- **At 14, you can be employed to do light work:**
  - On weekdays or Sundays for 2 hours per day (but only 1 hour before school) between 7 am and 7 pm
  - On Saturdays or in school holidays for 5 hours per day
  - In school holidays for 25 hours per week
  - In school term time for 12 hours per week

- **At 15 you can do light work as at aged 14 but:**
  - On Saturdays or in school holidays for 8 hours per day
  - In school holidays for 35 hours per week

- **At 16 you can get a full-time job and pay National Insurance**

- **At 16 you can get the National Minimum Wage**
  - At the rate for 16 and 17 year olds

- **At 18 you can generally get the National Minimum Wage**
  - At the rate for 18 to 21 year olds
Proving my age:
You can get a proof-of-age card issued under the UK’s national PASS scheme. These cards use photo identification and carry the PASS logo in a hologram. You can get a card by applying to:

Citizencard
www.citizencard.com 0844 499 4688
contact@citizencard.com

Validate UK
www.validateuk.co.uk 01434 634996
info@validateuk.co.uk

Young Scot
www.youngscot.org 0808 801 0338
infoline@youngscot.org

Or see www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/identitycards/pass.html

For more information on this leaflet and on your legal rights contact:

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