At what age can I...?

Citizens **Information** Board information · advice · advocacy

Leave school

Or when you finish three years of post-primary education, whichever is later

Leave home

- 16 With parental consent
- 18 Without parental consent



Get a job

- Up to seven hours per day (35 hours per week) during school holidays
- Up to eight hours per week during term time and up to seven hours per day (35 hours per week) during school holidays
- **16** Up to eight hours per day and 40 hours per week

Have a social media account

16 Without parental consent.

If you are under 16, you can have a social media account with parental consent. Many social media platforms don't allow a person under 13 to set up an account, even if they have their parent's consent.

Buy alcohol

18 If you are aged under 18, you cannot buy alcohol and must be accompanied by a parent on licensed premises and may only remain on the premises up to 9pm (10pm from May to September).

If aged 15 to 17, you can stay later when attending a private function at which a substantial meal is being served.

- 18 Vape
- **18** Buy cigarettes

Drive on a public road

- Motorbike up to 11kW and up to 125cc, moped and certain work vehicles
- Car and other vehicles with seats for up to eight passengers and maximum weight of 3,500kg
- Motorbike up to 35kW, goods vehicles up to 7,500kg
- 21 Buses with seats for up to 16 passengers



- 16 Consent to medical treatment
- 18 Give blood



Have an abortion

- 16 If you are over 16, you can choose not to have an adult involved and a doctor can offer you an abortion if they think you understand the information and give consent
- 17 Consent to having sex
- 18 Marry



Apply for a 10-year passport

18 If you are younger, you can only apply for a 5-year passport

18 Book a holiday or flight



18 Apply for a National Age Card

Register to vote

18 For all elections and referendums

Stand for elections

- **18** Local elections
- **21** National and European elections
- **35** Presidential election

Apply for a gender recognition certificate

- Parents can apply on your behalf if you have a Court Exemption Order
- 18 Without parental assistance
- 18 Sit on a jury in court

Enter a legally binding contract

18 Except for certain contracts such as for necessities (for example, food) or apprenticeships

Be charged with a criminal offence



- 10 For murder, manslaughter, rape and aggravated sexual assault
- **12** For other criminal offences



Visit citizensinformation.ie



Read our guide to Leaving School

