

**MINIMUM AGE**

**Table 7.32  
MINIMUM AGE FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES**

State or other jurisdiction	Minimum age for marriage with consent (a)			Minimum age for making a will	Minimum age for buying alcohol	Minimum age for serving on a jury	Minimum age for leaving school (c)
	Age of majority (b)	Male	Female				
Alabama .....	18	14 (d,e)	14 (d,e)	18	21	19	16
Alaska .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16
Arizona .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16 (g)
Arkansas .....	18	17 (f,h)	16 (f,h)	18	21	18	17
California .....	18	(i)	(i)	18	21	18	18
Colorado .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16
Connecticut .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16
Delaware .....	18	18 (h)	16 (h)	18	21	18	16
Florida .....	18	16 (d,h)	16 (d,h)	18	21	18	16
Georgia .....	16	16 (h)	16 (h)	14	21	18	16
Hawaii .....	16	15 (f)	15 (f)	18	21	18	18 (j)
Idaho .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18 (k)	21	18	16
Illinois .....	18	16 (l)	16 (l)	18	21	18	16
Indiana .....	18	18 (f,h)	18 (f,h)	18 (m)	21	18	18 (n)
Iowa .....	18	18 (f)	18 (f)	18	21	18	16
Kansas .....	18	14	12	18	21	18	18
Kentucky .....	18	18 (f)	18 (f)	18	21	18	16 (n)
Louisiana .....	18	18 (f)	18 (f)	18	21	18	17
Maine .....	18	18 (f)	18 (f)	18	21	18	17
Maryland .....	18	18 (h,o)	18 (h,o)	18	21	18	16
Massachusetts .....	18	14 (p)	12 (p)	18	21	18	16
Michigan .....	18	16	16	18	21	18	16
Minnesota .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16 (r)
Mississippi .....	(q)	(i,p)	(i,p)	18	21	21	17
Missouri .....	18	15 (s)	15 (s)	18 (t)	21	21	16
Montana .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16 (u)
Nebraska .....	17	17	17	18	21	19	16
Nevada .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	17
New Hampshire .....	18	18 (v)	18 (v)	18 (w)	21	18	16
New Jersey .....	18	16 (f,h)	16 (f,h)	18	21	18	16
New Mexico .....	18	16 (h,s)	16 (h,s)	18	21	18	18
New York .....	18	16 (v)	16 (v)	18	21	18	16 (x)
North Carolina .....	18	16 (h)	16 (h)	18	21	18	16
North Dakota .....	18	16	16	18	21	18	16
Ohio .....	18	18 (f,h)	16 (f,h)	18	21	18	18
Oklahoma .....	18	16 (f,h)	16 (f,h)	18	21	18	18
Oregon .....	18	17 (y)	17 (y)	18 (z)	21	18	18
Pennsylvania .....	18	16 (s)	16 (s)	18	21	18	17
Rhode Island .....	18	18 (s)	16 (s)	18	21	18	16
South Carolina .....	18	16 (h)	14 (h)	18 (aa)	21	18	17
South Dakota .....	18	16	16	18	21	18	16 (u)
Tennessee .....	18	16 (s)	16 (s)	18	21	18	17
Texas .....	18	14(p,v)	14 (p,v)	18 (bb)	21	18	17
Utah .....	18 (cc)	16 (d,f)	16 (d,f)	18	21	18	18
Vermont .....	18	16 (f)	16 (f)	18	21	18	16
Virginia .....	18	16 (h)	16 (h)	18	21	18	18
Washington .....	18	17 (s)	17 (s)	18	21	18	18 (dd)
West Virginia .....	18	18 (h)	18 (h)	18	21	18	16
Wisconsin .....	18	16	16	18	21	18	18
Wyoming .....	18	16 (s)	16 (s)	18	21	18	16
Dist. of Columbia .....	18	16 (d)	16 (d)	18	21	18	18
Puerto Rico .....	21 (h)	18 (h,s)	16 (h,s)	N.A.	N.A.	18	18

See footnotes at end of table.

**MINIMUM AGE FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES — Continued**

Sources: The Century Council; Education Commission of the States, *Clearinghouse Notes*, March 2000, www.ecs.org; National Center for State Courts; Gary Skoloff, Skoloff & Wolfe; state statutes.

N.A. — Not available

(a) With parental consent. Minimum age for marrying without consent is 18 years in all states, except in Nebraska where the minimum age is 17 and Puerto Rico where the minimum age is 21.

(b) Generally, the age at which an individual has legal control over own actions and business (e.g., ability to contract) except as otherwise provided by statute. In many states, age of majority is arrived at upon marriage if minimum legal marrying age is lower than prescribed age of majority.

(c) Without graduating.

(d) Parental consent not required if minor was previously married.

(e) Other statutory requirements apply.

(f) Younger persons may marry with parental consent and/or permission of judge. In Connecticut judicial approval.

(g) Or completed 10th grade.

(h) Younger persons may obtain license in case of pregnancy or birth of child.

(i) No age limits.

(j) Students over the age of 16 can withdraw with the approval of both the principal and the student's guardian, and if an alternative education program exists.

(k) Or any emancipated minor

(l) Judicial consent may be given when parents refuse to consent.

(m) Or who is younger and a member of the armed forces, or of the merchant marine of the United States, or its allies, may make a will

(n) An individual in Indiana is required to stay in school until he or she is between 16 and 18 and meets the requirement for an exit interview; or reaches at least 18 years of age. Withdrawal before 18 requires guardian's and principal's written permission. In Kentucky, must have parental signature for leaving school between the ages of 16 and 18.

(o) If parties are at least 16, proof of age and the consent of parents in person is required. If a parent is ill, an affidavit by the incapacitated parent and a physician's affidavit required.

(p) Parental consent and/or permission of judge required. In Massachusetts, under 18 requires court authority.

(q) Age of consent 17 for males and 15 for females.

(r) Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year "every child between 7 and 18 years of age shall receive instruction..."

(s) Younger parties may obtain license in special circumstances.

(t) Or any minor emancipated by adjudication, marriage or entry into active military duty.

(u) Montana and South Dakota require that a child shall remain in school until the later of either the child's 16th birthday or the date of completion of the work of the eighth grade.

(v) Below age of consent parties need parental consent and permission of judge, no younger than 14 for males and 13 for females (14 in New York).

(w) Married persons under 18.

(x) Age 17 in New York City and Buffalo.

(y) If a party has no parent residing within state, and one party has residence within state for 6 months no permission required.

(z) Or lawfully married.

(aa) Or married or emancipated as decreed by family court.

(bb) Or who is or has been lawfully married, or who is a member of the armed forces of the United States or of the auxiliaries thereof or of the maritime service.

(cc) Authorizes counties to provide for premarital counseling as a requisite to issuance of license to persons under 19 and persons previously divorced.

(dd) Early withdrawal possible if the student is age 16 or older, is regularly and lawfully employed, has met graduation requirements, or has received a certificate of educational competence.