

# A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE STYRIAN YOUTH ACT FOR ADULTS

## When will my child reach the age of majority?

What are the age limits specified in the Austrian General Civil Code (ABGB)?

- Until the age of 7, persons are considered to be children,
- from the age of 7 to the age of 14, persons are minors without criminal responsibility,
- from the 14th birthday until the 18th birthday, they are minors with criminal responsibility, and
- from the 18th birthday onwards, they are, in principle, adults.

Once the child reaches the age of majority, they have all the rights and obligations of an adult. As a result, any duties of care towards the child cease.

## When is my child criminally responsible or liable for offences?

From the age of 14, individuals are responsible for their own criminal offences and are generally liable for damages resulting from their unlawful actions.

Parents or guardians may be liable in exceptional cases for damage caused by the unlawful behaviour of their child (under 14 years of age).

## What consequences can parents or guardians expect in the event of violations?

Should parents or legal guardians fail to comply with the youth protection regulations (e.g. by offering or providing alcohol to young people), they may be punished, depending on the severity of the offence, either through official proceedings (reporting to the authorities) or by means of an administrative penalty (the amount to be paid will be collected directly on site).

## Who can I entrust with the supervision of my child?

Parents or legal guardians must exercise care and responsibility when transferring supervision.

Supervision may be transferred temporarily or permanently to persons who have reached the age of 18.

## How long is my child allowed to stay out?

Parents or legal guardians can make an agreement with their children regarding how long they are allowed to stay out within the following time limits:

- until the child's 14th birthday: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- from the child's 14th to 16th birthday: 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- from the child's 16th birthday: no limits

There are no time restrictions when the child is accompanied by parents or legal guardians or a responsible supervisor (at least 18 years old), provided that no compromise is made on the welfare of the child.

## Who must my child prove his or her age to?

As parents or legal guardians, you must inform your children that they are obliged to prove their age to the police, youth protection authorities and persons who are required to carry out checks in compliance with the Youth Act (e.g. cashiers, waitresses and waiters). Proof can be provided in a suitable manner (e.g. official youth ID card, check.it card issued by the province of Styria, pupil ID card, official photo ID [passport, identity card, driving licence, etc.] or equivalent digital ID).

Please note: A photo/screenshot of a valid photo ID is not sufficient!

## What bans on entry apply to my child?

Parents or legal guardians must ensure that their children comply with the following restrictions:

Children and young people are prohibited from entering all establishments, club premises and events if the nature of the performance is such that it is likely to impair their physical, mental, emotional, moral, ethical character or social development, in particular nightclubs, brothels, peep shows, swinger clubs, sex shops, (sports) betting shops and similar establishments, as well as at events or in establishments where alcoholic beverages are sold at very low prices, such as 'flat-rate parties', '1-euro parties', etc.

## When are alcohol, tobacco and nicotine permitted?

The purchase, possession and consumption of all alcoholic beverages is prohibited until the age of 16.

Until the age of 18, the purchase, possession and consumption of beverages containing distilled alcohol and mixed drinks containing spirits (e.g. vodka, schnapps, alcopops, Aperol) as well as tobacco products, related products and nicotine products in general are prohibited. This applies to all nicotine products, such as cigarettes, e-cigarettes ('vapes'), water pipes ("shishas"), tobacco heaters ('Heets'), snus, nicotine pouches and nicotine-free smoking products.

If parents or guardians provide their children with alcoholic beverages, tobacco or similar substances, they may be fined up to €15,000.

## Which media are harmful to minors?

Parents or legal guardians are not permitted to offer, show or make available to their children any media or objects that are harmful to minors.

Such materials are considered harmful to minors if, for entertainment purposes, they depict criminal acts of inhuman brutality, glorify violence or otherwise promote aggression and violence, discriminate against people on the basis of their skin colour, worldview, national or ethnic origin, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or disability. The same applies to the depiction of pornographic acts or sexuality that disregard human dignity.

Content that is harmful to minors may be found on analogue data carriers and media as well as on digital media and online media.

Airsoft guns, paintball markers and imitation weapons that could be mistaken for real ones are considered to be objects harmful to minors. Their purchase or possession is prohibited until the age of 18.

## Are there age restrictions for participating in games of chance and sports betting?

Parents or legal guardians must ensure that their children under the age of 18 are not allowed to use slot machines or participate in games of chance or sports betting. There are no exceptions to this rule, even for children who are accompanied by a guardian.

## How old does my child have to be to hitchhike?

Hitchhiking or booking rides via carpooling websites is only permitted after the age of 16.

Exceptions: In emergencies, providing the driver or a passenger knows the child or the young person(s), or if the child or the young person(s) is accompanied by a guardian.

## When is my child allowed to move out of the family home?

Parents or legal guardians generally have the right to determine the place of residence of their children until they reach the age of majority.

## When can my child go on holiday on its own?

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding whether their child is mature enough to travel alone until the child reaches the age of 18.

Required for travelling abroad: valid travel document, e.g. passport or, for travel within the EU, a valid identity card. The following are also recommended: written confirmation or consent from parents (including name, address and telephone number) who have agreed to the trip, preferably in the language of the country to be visited. Please note that the respective youth protection regulations of the holiday destination must be observed (e.g. with regard to the duty of supervision).

## When is my child allowed to get a piercing or tattoo?

It is assumed that young people aged 14 and over are capable of assessing the implications of piercing so that consent from parents or legal guardians is not required. Exceptions: The consent of parents or legal guardians is required if the pierced area does not heal within 24 days, or the piercing is to be made in a very sensitive area or if the procedure involves high risks.

In principle, tattoos are permitted from the age of 18. However, with the consent of parents or legal guardians from the age of 16.