

GENERAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

How Old Are You & What Are Your Rights & Responsibilities?

15 years

You can leave school, get a full time job and have a Medicare Card.

16 years

- If you are under 16 years old, it is illegal for you to have sex with anyone.
- You need to fill in a Tax Return if you earned money.
- You can receive Social Security Benefits. Special benefits may apply if you are younger and homeless, or if you have worked before.

18 years

- You can get married without permission from your parents.
- You can get a tattoo without permission from your parents.
- You must vote in Local, State and Federal elections or referendums.
- Your parents are no longer responsible for you and you can make your own decisions – although if you continue to study after High School, Centrelink can refer to your parents' income when working out your entitlements to Austudy.
- You can make a valid Will. If you are younger and married, you can also make a Will. You can sign contracts.
- Some contracts can be made by younger people, e.g. to buy food, clothing or to be employed.

Be Responsible For Your Own Actions

Q1. Do you have the right to see your school files? YES or No?

Not necessarily. There are many files the school will keep and it is not an established right for you to view all of these files. You may certainly ask to view your file(s) and the answer is likely to depend on each school's policy on this issue.

Q2. How old do you need to be to get a full-time job? 10, 12, 14 or 15 years old.

15 years old. As you must be in school until you turn 15, you cannot get full time employment unless you have permission from the Department of Employment, Education and Training. If you are under 15, you can get a part-time job outside of school hours.

Q3. If your boss sacks you because you are pregnant, can you do something about it? YES or No?

Yes. There are anti-discrimination laws that prevent employers from sacking people without good reason. You can contact the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commission on 8999 1444, or 1 800 810815 if you are out of Darwin, for more information.

Some useful contact numbers

Legal Aid Commission

Alice Springs 8951 5377
Darwin 8999 3000
Katherine 8973 8704

Juvenile Pre-Court Diversion Unit

Darwin 8999 1566

NT Police

Alice Springs 8951 8888
Darwin 8927 8888
Katherine 8973 8000
Nhulunbuy 8987 1333
Tennant Creek 8962 4444