

NT POLICE - FACTS

The Northern Territory Police motto is "To serve and protect".

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

10 years

At the age of 10 you can be charged with criminal offences. (Criminal Code, S.38(1))

14 years

Once you are 14, the court will presume that you had the ability to know that what you were doing was wrong. (Criminal Code, s.38(2))

16 ½ years

You can apply for a driving Learner's Permit.

17 years

You can apply for your driver's licence.

18 years

- You can be charged as an adult for criminal offences.
- You can buy cigarettes.
- You can buy alcohol and drink in public bars and clubs.

Breathalysers

If you are involved in an incident on a public road or public place involving a vehicle you can be asked for a breath test. Police are able to do random breath testing at anytime. If you refuse or fail to supply the sample you can be arrested and taken back to the Police Station for a breath analysis. You can be charged if you refuse the breath analysis. If you have injuries or a physical disability that prevents you from giving a sample of breath you can be conveyed to the hospital to give a sample of your blood. It is an offence if you refuse to give blood in these circumstances.

Alcohol

There is no law about how old you have to be to drink in private, but it is against the law for licensed premises to sell alcohol to people under the age of 18 years. It is an offence to drink in licensed premises if you are under 18 and not in the company of your parent or guardian. You could be asked to show ID before you are sold alcohol. It is against the law to pretend to be 18 and try to get alcohol.

Drinking in Public

In most cases, no one can drink in a public place within 2 kilometres of licensed premises where liquor is sold unless they have a special permit. Public places mean shopping centres, parks, malls or on the street. If you get caught drinking in public within the 2-kilometre limit, any alcohol that you have may be seized and destroyed. Obscene language, violent behaviour and acting indecently are also offences that often go together with drinking offences.

Drugs

You can be charged with a drug offence if you:

- supply a dangerous drug;
- give or sell a drug to someone else;
- possess a dangerous drug, including having drugs in your room or school locker; or
- possess a utensil, such as a bong, pipe or scales (not a syringe or needle), if the Police believe it will be used with drugs.

If you are resident in a house that has been declared to be a Drug House, you may be charged with an offence if drugs are found on the premises, even if they are not in your possession or in your room.

Needles & Syringes

It is not illegal to be in the possession of needles or syringes, clean or used. However, Police may seize a used syringe as evidence of your possession or use of a dangerous drug. You may also be charged if you supply a syringe or needle to another person. Syringes must be disposed of properly.

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