



Happy Birthday!

You're Turning 18

New privileges and new responsibilities are yours on your 18th birthday.¹

Your new decision-making rights involve:

- You take the lead with your school and become the decision maker about your educational program through an ARDC².
- If in an ARDC meeting you disagree with the school about your IEP³, the school must offer a recess of no more than 10 school days. This recess gives you and the school time to gather more information that will help you reach an agreement.
- You may request an evaluation to help identify any future knowledge and skills that might be needed for employment, education, and daily living.
- You may still include your parents and also invite people who have knowledge about you to participate in your ARDC meeting.

¹If a court has appointed your parent or another person as your legal guardian, the rights under IDEA will not transfer to you. The legally appointed guardian will receive the rights.

²Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee

³Individualized Education Program



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My Rights and Responsibilities

Some areas to think about and/or find additional information on . . .

- There are basically no restrictions on the type of work you may do.
- You have control over your earnings.
- Employers must pay the legal minimum wage unless you're a trainee.
- If you don't already have a Social Security number, apply for one now!
- You may need to pay taxes.
- You may apply for your Driver's License (you will need to bring proof of age to a Department of Motor Vehicles Office).
- You may get medical treatment, but you may be responsible for the cost.
- Check your health insurance plans to see if you will still be covered.
- You may register to vote and hold elected office.
- If you are charged with a crime, the criminal court has jurisdiction and you may be treated as an adult.
- You can file lawsuits on your own behalf, and you can also be sued.
- You may be called for jury duty.
- You can enter into legally binding contracts:
 - Checking and saving accounts
 - Credit
 - Buying and selling property
 - Marriage license
- Men are required to register with the Selective Service.
- You may write a will, inherit, and control real and personal property.
- The legal age for drinking in Texas is 21.
- The legal age for purchasing tobacco is 18.

Materials adapted from Ventura County SELPA

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