

Resources on Age of Majority: The 18th Birthday - Now What?

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In most states; once you have reached the age of 18, you're considered, in the eyes of the law, an adult. Becoming an adult comes with many rights and responsibilities. Some examples include; the right to vote, consent to marriage, financial, medical, and educational responsibilities, and binding contractual agreements.

For some with special health needs or a disability, there are probably more things to be considered. Things such as: will you (the parent) continue to make the medical decisions for your adult child? Financial decisions? Or is your now adult comfortable enough to make his or her own medical, financial, and life decisions? Some decisions are simple, while others are complex.

Whatever direction you choose, know that it will take time with planning ahead and perhaps some monetary resources. Planning ahead is the only way you can guarantee that the transition into adulthood is smooth and effective.

The *Center for Parent Information and Resources* offers a wide range of resources, for parents and youth with special healthcare needs. Included are tips, web links, and definitions of common terms. You can access them at the following website:

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/age-of-majority-parentguide/>

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