

What Is Emancipation?

Emancipation ends the legal authority that a parent has over a child who is under 18. After emancipation, your parent doesn't have to take care of you or pay for things that you need. Emancipation changes your life. You will have some new rights and also some new responsibilities.

When Can You Get a Judge to Emancipate You?

You have to be at least 14 and living away from home. Your parents have to agree with your decision. They could also decide not to fight you in court. You have to have a legal income that pays for food, clothes, and rent. The judge has to decide that emancipation is best for you.

After You Are Emancipated, Which of These Are Rights? Which Are Responsibilities?

Right—the power to have or do something (if you want) that is guaranteed by law.

Responsibility—an obligation or something you must do.

Write the word "right" or "responsibility" next to each sentence:

1. You can live where you want. _____
2. You can decide when to go to the doctor. _____
3. You must have the money to take care of yourself. _____
4. You can sign contracts to buy, sell, rent, or give things away. _____
5. You can keep the money you make. _____
6. You can sign up for school and get a work permit. _____
7. You can get a driver's license if you are old enough and have insurance. _____
8. You must pay your doctor bills if you get sick. _____

Emancipation Is Not the Same as Being 18

If you are emancipated, is the answer to these questions YES or NO?
Circle the right answer:

1. Do you still have to attend school until you are 18? YES NO
2. Can you work as many hours as an 18-year-old? YES NO
3. Can you get married without your parent's consent? YES NO
4. If you break a law, will you have to go to adult criminal court? YES NO
5. Can you vote? YES NO
6. Can you buy and drink alcohol? YES NO

What Are the Three Ways to Get Emancipated? Who Has to Agree?

Draw a line connecting the action at the left with the people on the right who have to participate.

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| Getting married ● | ○ Parents only |
| Joining the armed forces ● | ○ Judge only |
| Emancipation from a judge ● | ○ Parents and judge |

