



# Minors and Contracts

## RULES FOR CONTRACTS WITH MINORS ARE DIFFERENT THAN FOR CONTRACTS WITH ADULTS

WHAT IS A MINOR? A MINOR is someone who is under "Legal Age".

LEGAL AGE IS:

- 18 years old in some states.
- 21 years old in other states.
- 18 or 21, depending on what part of the law is being dealt with.

The law in most states says minors are **too young** to have the capacity to make a contract. **Therefore**, in most states, adults cannot make minors perform on their contracts. This is a situation where the law provides special privileges to minors.

**Problem:** Some adults may not want to sign a contract with a minor because they won't be able to make the minor perform.

I REALLY  
WANT TO  
PAINT  
YOUR  
HOUSE!



NO! YOU'RE  
A MINOR.  
I WON'T BE  
ABLE TO  
ENFORCE  
THE  
CONTRACT!

**Question:** Are there ever times when the courts might force a minor to perform on a contract?

**Answer:** YES! Sometimes the courts **will** enforce a contract against a minor, if he/she is **emancipated**.