



Did You Know...?

...when you turn 18 years old, you are legally an adult and you have many more rights and responsibilities? This self-advocacy guide will explain some of these rights and responsibilities.

- 👉 You can register to vote in local, state and federal elections. You can get registration forms at your local library, post office, DMV branch, through your local registrar, or on line at www.sbe.virginia.gov.



- 👉 You can enter into contracts and sign legal papers including credit card applications, leases, loans and many other legal agreements. Be careful! You can also be **sued** if you do not meet your obligations under a contract.

- 👉 You must register for selective service (**males only**) within 30 days of your 18th birthday regardless of any disability. There are a few narrow exceptions, but it is safe to assume that you must register. You can register online at www.sss.gov; pick up a form at your local post office; or ask your high school guidance counselor for information and assistance.



- 👉 You can make your own decisions about medical care, education, finances and all other life choices. Your parents may not be allowed to continue to do things for you such as make or cancel medical appointments, get information on your prescriptions or talk to an insurance company about you without your consent.

- 👉 You can write an advance directive to prepare for the future. You can get more information, including a do-it-yourself form with instructions, at <http://dlcv.org/supported-decision-making>.

- 👉 If you received SSI before age 18, your case will be reviewed near your 18th birthday to decide if you meet the adult rules for disability. If you didn't have SSI before age 18 because your household income or resources was too high then at age 18 you can apply on **your own** income and resources. This may make it easier to meet the financial rules. You also have to meet the adult rules for disability.

If you are charged with a crime, you will be treated as an adult and your criminal record is permanent. You do not have the right to have your parents present when you are questioned as you did when you were a minor, but you do have the right to have an attorney with you. If the police are questioning you about a crime, **ask for an attorney** and the police have to stop questioning you.



- 👉 You can get into a lot of trouble if you have sex with someone under the age of 18 because you are an adult and the other person is still considered a child.
- 👉 You may be called for jury duty. This does not mean you will have to serve on a jury, but you may get a summons to appear in court for duty.



- 👉 You are responsible for paying taxes and filing your tax return.

AND, did you know that you still CANNOT do these things....

- 👉 Purchase, possess or use alcohol. If you are caught with alcohol, you may be charged with a Class 1 Misdemeanor and face the possibility of a fine, community service, and suspension of your driver's license.
- 👉 Apply for or carry a concealed weapon.

Wait! One last thing, did you know we are here to help?

disABILITY Law Center of Virginia (dLCV)

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dLCV publications are available in alternate format, upon request.



The Protection and Advocacy System for Virginians with Disabilities

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This information should not be interpreted as legal advice.