When does a person become an “adult”? In Texas, as in most states, you become an adult at age 18. Each state may determine its own “age of majority.”

What does it mean to become an “adult”? When you become an “adult” you then have certain new rights, i.e., to vote, make contracts in your own name, and to become completely independent. You also have certain new responsibilities and are held personally accountable for your actions.

When I reach age 18, am I automatically given all the rights of an “adult”? In Texas, the answer is “yes” with the exception of the laws relating to alcoholic beverages.

Each state may set differing age limits for many situations, including the following:

- To vote in state and local elections
- To serve on a jury in court
- To marry without parental consent
- To make a will
- To work for pay
- To obtain a driver’s license
- To be able to examine your credit record
Some of the rights you have after age 18 that you did not have before are as follows:

- To sue in court in your own name
- To make a contract (rent an apartment, buy a car, and/or take out a loan) in your own name
- To obtain medical treatment without parental consent
- To be completely independent from parental control

What are some of the responsibilities I have after age 18 that I did not have before?

- In Texas after age 17, criminal charges filed against you will be tried in adult criminal court rather than juvenile court.
- Your parents are no longer required to support you, and they are not liable for accidents you cause.
- Others may sue you on contracts you make.
- You are eligible for jury duty.
- All males are required to register for military service