

**Chapter 26.28 RCW**  
**AGE OF MAJORITY**

**Sections**

- 26.28.010 Age of majority.
- 26.28.015 Age of majority for enumerated specific purposes.
- 26.28.020 Married persons—When deemed of full age.
- 26.28.030 Contracts of minors—Disaffirmance.
- 26.28.040 Disaffirmance barred in certain cases.
- 26.28.050 Satisfaction of minor's contract for services.
- 26.28.060 Child labor—Penalty.
- 26.28.070 Certain types of employment prohibited—Penalty.
- 26.28.080 Selling or giving tobacco to minor—Belief of representative capacity, no defense—Penalty.
- 26.28.085 Applying tattoo to a minor—Penalty.
- 26.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Alcoholic beverage control*

- furnishing liquor to minors—Possession, use: RCW 66.44.270.*
- minor applying for permit: RCW 66.44.280.*
- minor purchasing liquor: RCW 66.44.290.*
- minors frequenting off-limits area—Misrepresenting age: RCW 66.44.310.*
- treating minor, etc., in tavern: RCW 66.44.300.*

*Baseball—Contracts with minors: Chapter 67.04 RCW.*

*Child*

- labor: Chapter 49.12 RCW.*
- support enforcement: Chapter 26.18 RCW.*
- welfare agencies: Chapter 74.15 RCW.*

*Children and youth services: Chapter 72.05 RCW.*

*Civil defense—Minors entitled to benefits: RCW 38.52.270.*

*Costs (civil) against guardian of infant plaintiff: RCW 4.84.140.*

*Council for children and families: Chapter 43.121 RCW.*

*Crimes and punishment*

- firearms, dangerous weapons*
  - delivery to ineligible persons: RCW 9.41.080.*
  - possession of pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle by person from eighteen to twenty-one: RCW 9.41.240.*
- frauds and swindles, substitution of child: RCW 9.45.020.*
- kidnapping: Chapter 9A.40 RCW.*
- leaving children unattended in parked automobile: RCW 9.91.060.*
- obscenity—Obscene literature: Chapter 9.68 RCW.*
- sex crimes: Chapter 9A.44 RCW.*

*District courts (civil)*

- action against infant—Guardian ad litem: RCW 12.04.150.*

commencement of actions—Action by infant: RCW 12.04.140.

Family abandonment or nonsupport: Chapter 26.20 RCW.

Firearm training program: RCW 77.32.155.

Game and game fish—Areas may be set aside for use of minors: RCW 77.12.330.

Green Hill School: Chapter 72.16 RCW.

Health care records, rights: RCW 70.02.130.

Hours of labor: Chapter 49.28 RCW.

Juvenile courts and juvenile offenders: Title 13 RCW.

Limitation of actions (civil)  
minors suing guardians for estates sold: RCW 4.16.070.  
statutes tolled by personal disability: RCW 4.16.190.

Maple Lane School: Chapter 72.20 RCW.

Medical consent, liability of provider: RCW 26.09.310.

Mental health treatment: Chapter 71.34 RCW.

Missing children clearinghouse and hotline: Chapter 13.60 RCW.

Motor vehicle operators' licenses  
application of person under eighteen—Signature of parent,  
etc.: RCW 46.20.100.  
juvenile agricultural driving permits: RCW 46.20.070.  
persons ineligible, generally: RCW 46.20.031.

Parties to actions (civil)—Guardian ad litem for infant: RCW 4.08.050.

Partition  
guardian may consent to partition: RCW 7.52.470.  
infant's share of proceeds to guardian: RCW 7.52.450.

Probate  
descent and distribution to legitimate, illegitimate,  
adopted children: Chapter 11.04 RCW.  
escheats—Limitation when claimant is minor: RCW 11.08.280.  
letters testamentary and of administration—Procedure during  
minority or absence of executor: RCW 11.28.040.

Property taxes—Certificate of delinquency—Redemption before deed—  
Minors and legally incompetent: RCW 84.64.070.

Recognizances for minors: RCW 10.16.150.

Savings and loan associations, minors as members: RCW 33.20.040.

Schools and colleges, generally: Titles 28A and 28B RCW.

*Sexual psychopaths and psychopathic delinquents: Chapter 71.06 RCW.*

*Sexually transmitted diseases: RCW 70.24.110.*

*Shoplifting by minors, liability of parents, guardians: RCW 4.24.230.*

*Special education—Children with handicapping conditions: Chapter 28A.155 RCW.*

*Special rights of action (civil)*

*action by parent for sale or transfer of controlled substance to minor: RCW 69.50.414.*

*action by parent for seduction of child: RCW 4.24.020.*

*action for injury or death of child: RCW 4.24.010.*

*State school for blind and deaf—Who may be admitted: RCW 72.40.040.*

*State school for girls: Chapter 72.20 RCW.*

*State training school for boys: Chapter 72.16 RCW.*

*Survival of actions (civil)—Action for personal injury survives: RCW 4.20.060.*

*Temporary assistance for needy families: Chapter 74.12 RCW.*

*Unemployment compensation, "employment"—Newspaper delivery person exemption: RCW 50.04.240.*

*Uniform transfers to minors act: Chapter 11.114 RCW.*

*Uniform veterans' guardianship act—Guardian for minor: RCW 73.36.060.*

*Worker's compensation—"Child" defined: RCW 51.08.030.*

**RCW 26.28.010 Age of majority.** Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all persons shall be deemed and taken to be of full age for all purposes at the age of eighteen years. [1971 ex.s. c 292 s 1; 1970 ex.s. c 17 s 1; 1923 c 72 s 2; Code 1881 s 2363; 1866 p 92 s 1; 1863 p 434 s 1; 1854 p 407 s 1; RRS s 10548.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** "If any provision of this 1971 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1971 ex.s. c 292 s 77.]

**Saving—1923 c 72:** "This act shall not apply to females who shall have attained the age of eighteen years at the time this act shall go into effect." [1923 c 72 s 3.] 1923 c 72 was codified as RCW 11.92.010 and 26.28.010.

*Age of majority for probate law and procedure purposes: RCW 11.76.080 and 11.76.095.*

**RCW 26.28.015 Age of majority for enumerated specific purposes.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided under RCW 7.105.100, all persons shall be deemed and taken to be of full age for the specific purposes hereafter enumerated at the age of eighteen years:

(1) To enter into any marriage contract without parental consent if otherwise qualified by law;

(2) To execute a will for the disposition of both real and personal property if otherwise qualified by law;

(3) To vote in any election if authorized by the Constitution and otherwise qualified by law;

(4) To enter into any legal contractual obligation and to be legally bound thereby to the full extent as any other adult person;

(5) To make decisions in regard to their own body and the body of their lawful issue whether natural born to or adopted by such person to the full extent allowed to any other adult person including but not limited to consent to surgical operations;

(6) To sue and be sued on any action to the full extent as any other adult person in any of the courts of this state, without the necessity for a guardian ad litem. [2022 c 268 s 41; 2021 c 215 s 141; 1992 c 111 s 12; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 2.]

**Effective dates—2022 c 268:** See note following RCW 7.105.010.

**Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215:** See note following RCW 7.105.900.

**Findings—1992 c 111:** See note following RCW 4.08.050.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

*Mental health treatment: Chapter 71.34 RCW.*

*Sexually transmitted diseases: RCW 70.24.110.*

**RCW 26.28.020 Married persons—When deemed of full age.** All minor persons married to a person of full age shall be deemed and taken to be of full age. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 38; Code 1881 s 2364; 1863 p 434 s 2; 1854 p 407 s 2; RRS s 10549.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**RCW 26.28.030 Contracts of minors—Disaffirmance.** A minor is bound, not only by contracts for necessities, but also by his or her other contracts, unless he or she disaffirms them within a reasonable time after he or she attains his or her majority, and restores to the other party all money and property received by him or her by virtue of the contract, and remaining within his or her control at any time after his or her attaining his or her majority. [2011 c 336 s 694; 1866 p 92 s 2; RRS s 5829.]

**RCW 26.28.040 Disaffirmance barred in certain cases.** No contract can be thus disaffirmed in cases where on account of the minor's own misrepresentations as to his or her majority, or from his or her having engaged in business as an adult, the other party had good reasons to believe the minor capable of contracting. [2011 c 336 s 695; 1866 p 93 s 3; RRS s 5830.]

**RCW 26.28.050 Satisfaction of minor's contract for services.** When a contract for the personal services of a minor has been made with him or her alone, and those services are afterwards performed, payment made therefor to such minor in accordance with the terms of the contract, is a full satisfaction for those services, and the parents or guardian cannot recover therefor. [2011 c 336 s 696; 1866 p 93 s 4; RRS s 5831.]

**RCW 26.28.060 Child labor—Penalty.** (1) Every person who shall employ, and every parent, guardian or other person having the care, custody or control of such child, who shall permit to be employed, by another, any child under the age of fourteen years at any labor whatever, in or in connection with any store, shop, factory, mine or any inside employment not connected with farm or house work, without the written permit thereto of a judge of a superior court of the county wherein such child may live, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to children employed as:

(a) Actors or performers in film, video, audio, or theatrical productions; or

(b) Youth soccer referees who have been certified by a national referee certification program. [2007 c 464 s 1; 1994 c 62 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 39; 1909 c 249 s 195; RRS s 2447.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

*Child labor: Chapter 49.12 RCW.*

*Employment permits: RCW 28A.225.080.*

**RCW 26.28.070 Certain types of employment prohibited—Penalty.** Every person who shall employ, or cause to be employed, exhibit or have in his or her custody for exhibition or employment any minor actually or apparently under the age of eighteen years; and every parent, relative, guardian, employer, or other person having the care, custody, or control of any such minor, who shall in any way procure or consent to the employment of such minor:

(1) In begging, receiving alms, or in any mendicant occupation; or,

(2) In any indecent or immoral exhibition or practice; or,

(3) In any practice or exhibition dangerous or injurious to life, limb, health, or morals; or,

(4) As a messenger for delivering letters, telegrams, packages, or bundles, to any known house of prostitution or assignation;

Shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [2011 c 336 s 697; 1909 c 249 s 194; RRS s 2446.]

*Juvenile courts and juvenile offenders: Title 13 RCW.*

**RCW 26.28.080 Selling or giving tobacco to minor—Belief of representative capacity, no defense—Penalty.** (1) A person who sells or gives, or permits to be sold or given, to any person under the age of twenty-one years any cigar, cigarette, cigarette paper or wrapper, tobacco in any form, or a vapor product is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) It is not a defense to a prosecution for a violation of this section that the person acted, or was believed by the defendant to act, as agent or representative of another.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "vapor product" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.345.010. [2019 c 15 s 1; 2016 sp.s. c 38 s 1; 2013 c 47 s 1; 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 437. Prior: 1987 c 250 s 2; 1987 c 204 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 37; 1919 c 17 s 1; 1911 c 133 s 1; 1909 ex.s. c 27 s 1; 1909 c 249 s 193; 1901 c 122 s 1; 1895 c 126 ss 1, 3 and 4; RRS s 2445. Formerly RCW 26.08.080, 26.08.090, and 26.08.100.]

**Effective date—2019 c 15:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2020." [2019 c 15 s 12.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 7 ss 401-410, 413-416, 418-437, and 439-460:** See note following RCW 9.41.010.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

*Juvenile courts and juvenile offenders: Title 13 RCW.*

*Minors, access to tobacco, role of liquor and cannabis board: Chapter 70.155 RCW.*

*Raising the minimum legal age of sale in certain compacts, consultations with federally recognized Indian tribes: RCW 43.06.468.*

**RCW 26.28.085 Applying tattoo to a minor—Penalty.** Every person who applies a tattoo to any minor under the age of eighteen is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is not a defense to a violation of this section that the person applying the tattoo did not know the minor's age unless the person applying the tattoo establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she made a reasonable, bona fide attempt to ascertain the true age of the minor by requiring production of a driver's license or other picture identification card or paper and did not rely solely on the oral allegations or apparent age of the minor.

For the purposes of this section, "tattoo" includes any permanent marking or coloring of the skin with any pigment, ink, or dye, or any procedure that leaves a visible scar on the skin. Medical procedures

performed by a licensed physician are exempted from this section.  
[1995 c 373 s 1.]

**RCW 26.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 s 69.]