

Version
as at 28 October 2021



Age of Majority Act 1970

Public Act 1970 No 137
Date of assent 2 December 1970
Commencement see section 1(2)

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Note

The Parliamentary Counsel Office has made editorial and format changes to this version using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019.

Note 4 at the end of this version provides a list of the amendments included in it.

This Act is administered by the Ministry of Justice.

An Act to amend the law relating to the age of majority and to the time when a particular age is attained

1 Short Title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Age of Majority Act 1970.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on 1 January 1971.

2 Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

enactment means any provision of any Act (other than this Act) or of any secondary legislation

instrument means any written document of whatever nature (not being an enactment).

Section 2 **Act**: repealed, on 28 October 2021, by section 3 of the Secondary Legislation Act 2021 (2021 No 7).

Section 2 **enactment**: amended, on 28 October 2021, by section 3 of the Secondary Legislation Act 2021 (2021 No 7).

Section 2 **regulations**: repealed, on 28 October 2021, by section 3 of the Secondary Legislation Act 2021 (2021 No 7).

3 Act to bind the Crown

This Act shall bind the Crown.

4 Age of majority

- (1) For all the purposes of the law of New Zealand a person shall attain full age on attaining the age of 20 years.
- (2) In the absence of a definition or of any indication of a contrary intention, the expressions **adult, full age, infant, infancy, minor, minority, full capacity, majority**, and similar expressions in any enactment or instrument shall be construed in accordance with subsection (1).
- (3) This section shall not affect any reference in any enactment or instrument to an age expressed in years.

5 Attainment of particular age

For all the purposes of the law of New Zealand the time at which a person attains a particular age expressed in years shall be the commencement of the relevant anniversary of the date of his birth.

6 Related amendments to other Acts

The Acts specified in Schedule 1 are hereby amended in the manner indicated in that schedule.

7 Related amendments to regulations

- (1) The regulations specified in Schedule 2 are hereby amended in the manner indicated in that schedule.
- (2) The amendment by this section of the regulations specified in Schedule 2 shall be without prejudice to any power of amending or revoking those regulations.
- (3) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, consequentially revoke Schedule 2 or any part of that schedule.
- (4) An order under this section is secondary legislation (*see* Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019 for publication requirements).

Legislation Act 2019 requirements for secondary legislation made under this section

Publication	PCO must publish it on the legislation website and notify it in the <i>Gazette</i>	LA19 s 69(1)(c)
Presentation	The Minister must present it to the House of Representatives	LA19 s 114, Sch 1 cl 32(1)(a)
Disallowance	It may be disallowed by the House of Representatives	LA19 ss 115, 116

This note is not part of the Act.

Section 7(4): inserted, on 28 October 2021, by section 3 of the Secondary Legislation Act 2021 (2021 No 7).

8 Transitional provisions and savings

Sections 4 to 7 shall be subject to the transitional provisions and savings set out in Schedule 3.

9 Laws of Niue and Tokelau not affected

Nothing in this Act shall affect the law as it applies to Niue and Tokelau.

Section 9 heading: amended, on 9 December 1976, pursuant to section 3(8) of the Tokelau Amendment Act 1976 (1976 No 122).

Section 9: amended, on 9 December 1976, pursuant to section 3(8) of the Tokelau Amendment Act 1976 (1976 No 122).

Schedule 1

Acts amended

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Acts Interpretation Act 1924 (1924 No 11) (Reprinted 1966 Statutes, Vol 3, p 1973)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Adoption Act 1955 (1955 No 93) (1957 Reprint, Vol 1, p 79)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Building Societies Act 1965 (1965 No 22)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Estate and Gift Duties Act 1968 (1968 No 35)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Health Act 1956 (1956 No 65) (1957 Reprint, Vol 6, p 1)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1908 (1908 No 81) (1957 Reprint, Vol 6, p 390)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Land Act 1948 (1948 No 64) (1957 Reprint, Vol 7, p 1)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Magistrates' Courts Act 1947 (1947 No 16) (1957 Reprint, Vol 8, p 647)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Maori Housing Amendment Act 1938 (1938 No 17) (1957 Reprint, Vol 9, p 18)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Maori Welfare Act 1962 (1962 No 133)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Marriage Act 1955 (1955 No 92) (1957 Reprint, Vol 9, p 365)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Mental Health Act 1969 (1969 No 16)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Minors Contracts Act 1969 (1969 No 41)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

New Zealand Foundation for the Blind Act 1963 (1963 No 26)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Property Law Act 1952 (1952 No 51) (1957 Reprint, Vol 12, p 133)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Public Trust Office Act 1957 (1957 No 36) (1957 Reprint, Vol 12, p 387)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Statutes Amendment Act 1946 (1946 No 40) (1957 Reprint, Vol 15, pp 159, 162, 875)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Trade Unions Act 1908 (1908 No 196) (1957 Reprint, Vol 15, p 827)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Trustee Act 1956 (1956 No 61) (Reprinted 1968 Statutes, Vol 4, p 3279)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Workers' Compensation Act 1956 (1956 No 62) (Reprinted 1966 Statutes, Vol 4, p 3326)

Amendment(s) incorporated in the Act(s).

Schedule 1: amended, on 20 May 2005, by section 11 of the Crimes Amendment Act 2005 (2005 No 41).

Schedule 1: amended, on 2 July 2001, by section 150(1) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (1996 No 30).

Schedule 1: amended, on 3 June 1998, by section 8 of the Guardianship Amendment Act 1998 (1998 No 48).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 October 1996, by section 290(1) of the Customs and Excise Act 1996 (1996 No 27).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 September 1995, by section 96 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995 (1995 No 16).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 July 1993, by section 4(2)(e) of the Hospitals Amendment Act 1993 (1993 No 26).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 July 1993, by section 362(1) of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 (1993 No 4).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 April 1993, by section 62(1) of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (1992 No 96).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 January 1988, by section 2(2) of the Post Office Act Repeal Act 1987 (1987 No 115).

Schedule 1: amended, on 24 December 1986, by section 8(1) of the Finance Act 1986 (1986 No 134).

Schedule 1: amended, on 2 September 1985, by section 14 of the Minimum Wage Act 1983 (1983 No 115).

Schedule 1: amended, on 1 November 1983, by section 58(2) of the Apprenticeship Act 1983 (1983 No 16).