



9. What happens if there is no exact result about your age?

It may be the case that your minority cannot be determined without doubt in spite of all examinations. If there are still doubts at the end of the age assessment, you will be treated as if you are younger than 18 years of age. You will receive support from the youth welfare office.

10. What can you do if you have given false information about your age?

You must talk to your residential care worker, the youth welfare office and your legal guardian immediately. Simply explain what you know now. Your age will then be determined again, if necessary also by way of a medical examination.

11. How can you help the youth welfare office with the age assessment?

Tell the youth welfare office everything that you know about your age and your life up until now. Show them all the papers that you have. If you are in contact with your family, you can ask them for more information. Sometimes, the family can also send documents to the youth welfare office which prove your exact age.

12. What can happen if you do not tell the truth about your age?

If you do not tell the truth, you are violating German law. The youth welfare office can take you to court. The youth welfare office can also demand all the money back that has been paid out for you.

13. Who can help you if no one believes you?

If you think that the result of the age assessment is incorrect, you can contact a lawyer. You can also contact the *Complaints office for children and young people* if you have problems with the youth welfare office.

Points of contact in Rhineland-Palatinate

Overview of the youth welfare offices in Rhineland-Palatinate

https://lsjv.rlp.de/fileadmin/lsjv/Dateien/Aufgaben/Kinder_Jugend_Familie/Adressen/Jugendaemter_rlp.pdf

Complaints office for children and young people

Kaiserstraße 32 | 55116 Mainz
Telephone 06131 28999-51
or 0172 7178723 or  WhatsApp
beschwerdestelle@diebuergerbeauftragte.rlp.de
www.diebuergerbeauftragte.rlp.de



Competence Centre
Unaccompanied Minors
Rheinallee 97-101
55118 Mainz
www.lsjv.rlp.de

Version: September 2018



HOW OLD ARE YOU?



Information on undertaking age assessments of unaccompanied minors in Rhineland-Palatinate.



WELCOME TO RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Hallo, اَلْسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ, Maalin Wanaagsan, سلام,
bonjour, ႏၢၤႁၢၤ, welcome!

You have come to Germany without your parents. According to German law, the youth welfare office must accommodate children and young people travelling alone if they are younger than 18 years of age. This is why the youth welfare office has to find out exactly how old you are. Sometimes this is not an easy thing to do. This is why the youth welfare office is undertaking an age assessment process, with your help.

You probably have many questions about the age assessment process. This flyer should help you to understand what age assessment is. Your rights and responsibilities will be explained and the most important questions will be answered.

1. How does the youth welfare office make an age assessment?

You must show the youth welfare office your real passport or official documents where your age is listed. If you do not have any of these papers with you, the youth welfare office will have an interview with you. This interview is called a qualified inspection. There are sometimes still doubts about whether you are under 18. In this case, your age must be investigated by a doctor. You or your legal guardian may also request a doctor's examination yourself as part of the age assessment process.

If you do not understand something, the youth welfare office must provide you with an interpreter. You may also contact a person that you trust for the age assessment.

2. What happens during the age assessment interview?

During the interview, you can state how old you are yourself. You will be asked a lot of things about your life. For example, you will be asked about your family, school, hometown and your journey to Germany. Two social workers from the youth welfare office will listen to you and check what you say. They will also look to see if your appearance corresponds to your age. The youth welfare office can also use other evidence in the age assessment process. During the interview, your rights must be explained to you in detail.

3. How does the doctors' examination take place?

First, the doctor will check how developed your body is and whether you have typical features for your age. Then, the bones in your hand and collarbone and your teeth will be examined using x-ray images.

4. Do you have to participate in the medical age assessment?

Yes, you have to participate in the medical age assessment. According to German law, you have an obligation to participate. The youth welfare office must inform you in detail about all examination methods and the possible consequences. The youth welfare office must explain to you what happens if you refuse. The medical age assessment may only be made with your consent and the agreement of your legal guardian.

5. You have received an appointment for a medical age assessment. What do you have to do?

You must absolutely attend the appointment and arrive on time. The medical examination is very important for you. If you do not go, the youth welfare office can stop supporting you.

6. What happens if you refuse to participate in the medical examination?

The youth welfare office can stop supporting you. It is likely that you will then have to move into a refugee accommodation for adults. However, if you take part in the medical examination within an appropriate time, the youth welfare office can continue to support you until they receive the results.

7. What happens if you are younger than 18?

If you are younger than 18, the youth welfare office will take care of your accommodation, care and food. For example, you can then live in a residential care home with other children and young people. If you have questions, you can talk to the youth office and your legal guardian.

8. What happens if you are older than 18?

You will receive a letter from the youth welfare office about the end of their services. You can still receive support from the youth welfare office if you require social or educational support as a young major person. To do this, you must apply for *Assistance for young major persons* at the youth welfare office. The youth welfare office can advise you and assist you with this.