



CHILD LABOR LAWS

The State of Florida and the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
Protecting the Health, Education and Welfare of Minors in the Workplace.

This chart summarizes the child labor laws of the State of Florida.
The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) may be more restrictive.

	Minors 16 & 17	Minors 14 & 15
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	May NOT work during school hours unless they meet a criterion of the Hour Restrictions listed below.	Florida: May not work during school hours (some exceptions apply). <i>As provided in 450.021(1), no person 13 years or younger shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in any gainful occupation at any time (See Age Restrictions)</i>
PERMITS TO WORK	Not required under Florida Law.	
HOURS OF WORK, WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION	May work up to 30 hours per week. Not before 6:30 a.m. or later than 11 p.m. and for no more than 8 hours a day when school is scheduled the following day, except on a holiday or Sunday. On days when school does not follow, there are no hour restrictions.	May work up to 15 hours per week. Not before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. and for no more than 3 hours a day on school days, when a school day follows. May work up to 8 hours on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and on non-school days, when school days do not follow, until 9 p.m. Daily maximum of 3 hrs. on school days, 8 hours non-school days; weekly maximum is 18 hours; not before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Note: Application of state law allows this age group to work up to 8 hours on days when school days do not follow, until 7 p.m.
HOURS OF WORK, WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION (summer vacation; winter and spring breaks)	No Limitations Note: Hazardous occupations still apply for minors.	Florida: May work up to 8 hrs. per day and up to 40 hrs. per week; may not work before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
DAYS PER WEEK	15 yrs. or younger may not work more than 6 consecutive days in any one week.	
BREAKS	15 yrs. or younger without a 30-minute break after working 4 consecutive hours, applicable to 17/16 years of age when working 8 hours or more.	
AGRICULTURE	Florida: Minors participating in farm work, not on their parents or guardian's farm, must comply with the same restrictions as in other work.	

RESTRICTED OCCUPATIONS This section represents Chapter 450.061- Hazardous Occupations Prohibited, Exemptions. Note that HB917 (2024) authorizes minors aged 16/17 to work in residential construction if the minor: has earned his/her OSHA 10 certification; is under the direct supervision of a person 21 years of age with at least 2 years of related experience and has his/her OSHA 10 Certification; is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet; and is not in violation of any OSHA rules or federal law related to minors in the workplace. The State of Florida has incorporated the 17 Hazardous Occupations (HOs) of the FLSA into the Florida Child Labor Rule. For more info on FLSA HOs, contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, [Child Labor I U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](http://ChildLabor.I.U.S.DepartmentofLabor.dol.gov)

Minors under the age of 18 may not work in below occupations:

- Working in or around explosives or radioactive substances
- Operating Motor vehicles
- Logging or sawmilling
- Operating power-driven meat processing machines to include meat and vegetable slicers, slaughtering, meat packing, processing or rendering
- Working on any scaffolding, roofs or ladders above 6 feet; or non-residential building construction
- Wrecking, demolition or excavation
- Mining occupations
- Operating power-driven bakery; metal-forming, punching, and shearing machines; woodworking, paper products or hoisting machines
- Manufacturing brick and tile products
- Operating circular saws, band saws, & guillotine shears
- Working with compressed gases exceeding 40 p.s.i.
- Working in or around toxic substances, corrosives or pesticides
- Firefighting
- Working with electrical apparatus or wiring
- Operating or assisting to operate tractors over 20 PTO horsepower, forklifts, earthmoving equipment, any harvesting, planting, or plowing machinery or any moving machinery

Minors 14 and 15 may not work in these occupations:

- Operating any power-driven machinery other than office machines, including all power mowers and cutters
- Maintaining or repairing, machines, or equipment
- Working in freezers or meat coolers
- Operating, setting up, adjusting, or cleaning power-driven meat or vegetable slicers, grinders, food choppers, and cutters, and bakery-type mixers
- Operating motor vehicles
- Manufacturing, mining, or processing occupations where goods are manufactured, mined, or processed
- Cooking (some exceptions apply) & baking
- Working in occupations in Transportation, Warehouse & Storage, Communications, and Construction (except clerical); boiler or engine rooms
- Loading and unloading trucks
- Working in public messenger services
- Handling certain dangerous animals
- Conducting door-to-door sales of products as employment (some exceptions)
- Spray painting

EXEMPTIONS

- Hour Restrictions** — (from hour restrictions only; hazard restrictions apply until 18 yrs.)
- Minors who have been married.
 - Minors who have either graduated from an accredited high school or hold a high school equivalency diploma.
 - Minors 16/17yrs. who are enrolled in a home education program, or an approved virtual instruction school program.
 - Minors 16/17 yrs. who have obtained a waiver allowing them to work more than 30hrs/week. The 40-hour limitation still applies.
 - Minors who hold waivers from a K-12 Public School or Child Labor Compliance with specified hours restrictions.
 - A court order may authorize an exemption from hourly restrictions.

EXEMPTIONS

- Age Restrictions** — (from age requirements; hazard restrictions still apply until 18 yrs.)
- Minors who work for their parents who owned the business in occupations not declared hazardous.
 - Pages in the Florida legislature.
 - Minors in the entertainment industry registered with Child Labor Compliance as prescribed in ss. 450.012 and 450.132, F.S.
 - A court order may authorize an exemption from age restrictions.

PARTIAL WAIVERS The Florida Child Labor law is designed to serve and protect minors and encourage them to remain in school. At times, some minors may feel that the law conflicts with their best interest or their life circumstances; therefore, they have the right to request an exemption from the law. If a minor is attending a K-12 public school, a waiver may be obtained and granted by the local school district. All other minors may request an application by contacting the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Child Labor Program. Waiver applications are reviewed and granted on a case-by-case basis. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that certain requirements of Florida law need to be waived. Employers must keep a copy of partial waivers of employed minors.

PENALTIES Florida: Employment of minors in violation of Florida Child Labor laws may result in fines up to \$2,500 per offense and/or be guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor. FLSA: Maximum fines up to \$11,000 per minor/per violation.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION Florida: If an injured minor is employed in violation of any provisions of the Child Labor laws of Florida, an employer may be subject to up to double the compensation otherwise payable under Florida Workers' Compensation law.

POSTING REQUIREMENTS Florida: All employers of minors must post in a conspicuous place on the property or place of employment, where it may be easily read, a poster notifying minors of the Florida Child Labor laws.

For information on Florida laws contact: Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation • Child Labor Program
2601 Blair Stone Road • Tallahassee, FL 32399-2212 • Telephone 850.488.3131; Toll-Free 1.800.226.2536 • www.myfloridalicense.com

For information on Federal laws contact: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Division, listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government; [Child Labor I U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](http://ChildLabor.I.U.S.DepartmentofLabor.dol.gov)

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the United States Department of Labor
"Working Together for Florida's Workforce"