



# Rhode Island Child Labor Laws



Both Rhode Island and Federal laws regulate the employment of minors. These laws were written to protect younger workers from long hours and hazardous jobs. By following the laws, younger workers can earn safely and gain experience.

**You must be 14 years old to work legally in Rhode Island.**

## What jobs can youth work?

### Jobs in which youth **CAN** be employed:

- Office and clerical work
- Retail and sales
- Advertising
- Price marketing and tagging
- Bagging and carrying out orders
- Errand and delivery work
- Cleanup work
- Group maintenance
- Kitchen work and wait staff
- ...and more.

### Jobs in which youth **CANNOT** be employed:

- Manufacturing various products
- Mining
- Logging and sawmilling
- Wrecking demolition and shipbreaking
- Jobs requiring operating power-driven machines
- Roofing
- Excavating
- ...and more.

## What hours can youth work?

### 14 or 15-year-olds:

- Up to but not exceeding 40 hours per week/8 hours per day.
- Not before 6:00 AM or after 7:00 PM. The curfew is 9:00 PM during school vacations.
- Must have an 8-hour rest between the end of one shift and the start of the next shift.

### 16 or 17-year-olds:

- Up to but not exceeding 48 hours per week/9 hours per day.
- Not before 6:00 AM or after 11:30 PM on school days, or after 1:30 AM if no school the next day. There is no curfew for non-students.
- Must have an 8-hour rest between the end of one shift and the start of the next shift.

## What working papers are required?

- You must have Special Limited Permit to Work form to be employed if you're 14 or 15.
- You may need a Certificate of Age form to be employed if you're 16 or 17.
- To get working papers, visit your local school department with proof of your age (Birth or Baptismal Certificate, Driver's License, Passport, School Records).

**For more  
information,  
please contact:**

**RI Department of Labor and Training** — Labor Standards Unit

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**US Department of Labor** — Wage and Hour Division

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