

## **Note about age assessment**

In Italy you come of age at 18 years old.

With your documents, you can demonstrate your age. The documents which are considered valid, if in original form, are: the passport, an identity card, even if it's no longer valid.

If you don't apply for asylum, you can ask the Consulate or the Embassy of your country for the passport or another identity document which demonstrates your age. In these cases, very frequently they ask you at least a birth certificate.

Some documents, such as for instance the birth certificate without a photo, are not enough to demonstrate your age, but they are nevertheless important documents which have to be considered.

If you don't have any document with you, but you have somebody in your country who can send them to you, it is important that you arrange them to be sent to you as soon as possible.

If your documents are not valid or if you don't have any document, you have to declare precisely your complete name and your date of birth. It is very important that you say the truth.

To declare an age different from the real one, and to use false documents are very serious offences, which can be punished with prison.

Besides this, if you get a residence permit as a child and lately you are discovered to be of age, almost certainly your residence permit will be revoked and you may lose the right to stay in the structure for minors where you live. Then, if you came from a reception centre, it would be difficult to go back.

If you are under age, a guardian will be appointed for you and he will follow you in all the decisions which concern you, for all the papers for the residence permit and for the documents. The guardian is your legal representative.

**IF YOU DECLARE YOU ARE UNDER AGE**, according to Italian law there can be some assessments to **establish your age**.

Before any decision about the assessment, you have the right to be informed about what is going to happen and about the possible outcomes. To be sure that you comprehend all the procedure, you have the right to be helped by a language/intercultural mediator.

When you cannot prove your age, the Attorney by the Juvenile Court will order you these assessments:

a) You will meet specialized operators who will try to understand your own history (how you have arrived in Italy, where your family lives, if you have relatives in Italy or in Europe with whom you would like to live, which schools you have attended in your country, which jobs you have done...)

b) You will meet the police, who will take your fingerprints and who will give you a unique identifying code, which can always confirm your identity and then you will have to take some medical visits and exams. You will be taken an X-rays of your wrist and there may also be other exams (for example of your teeth). You will finally be examined by a doctor, who will write a final report.

The result of the exams will be communicated to you, to the Attorney by the Juvenile Court, who will file a petition to the Juvenile Court, that will ratify your age, to your guardian if he has already been appointed. If a guardian has not been appointed yet, the results will be communicated to the responsible of the structure where you live.

You have the right to ask your guardian a written copy of the results of the age assessment.

If you succeed to obtain a useful document to prove your age, even after such assessment, you have the right to produce it to the Judge, so the Judge can take it into consideration.

The Judge will define your age within the terms fixed by law. You have the right to ask to be heard by the Judge.

Se non sei d'accordo con il risultato degli accertamenti puoi presentare ricorso a un altro Giudice contro questo il provvedimento. Il termine per presentare ricorso è molto breve: 10 giorni dopo che ti hanno notificato il provvedimento.

If you don't agree with the results of the assessment, you can appeal to another Judge against the decision. The term to appeal is very short: 10 days from the time the first decision has been notified to you.

Both during the procedure of the Juvenile Judge, and in case of appeal against his decision, you have the right to name a lawyer and to have legal aid (the lawyer will be paid by the Italian State).

Fino a quando la procedura non sarà completata, hai diritto di essere trattato come minorenne, quindi ad esempio dovrai essere accolto in una struttura per minori e non potrai essere espulso.

As long as the procedure is going on, you have the right to be treated as being under age, so for example you must be placed in a structure for underage boys or girls and you cannot be expelled.

Signature for acknowledgement

The interested person

The operator

9.02.2018