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Jugendschutzgesetz — Curfew Times, Alcohol & Work

Key rules of the Jugendschutzgesetz: curfew times, alcohol from 16/18, smoking ban under 18, work from 13/15.

Deutsche Begriffe: Jugendschutzgesetz | JuSchG | Ausgehzeiten | Alkohol | Rauchen | Kinderarbeit | Jugendarbeit

Jugendschutzgesetz (JuSchG) — Overview

The **Jugendschutzgesetz** regulates what children and young people are allowed to do in Germany — and what they are not. It applies to persons **under 18 years of age** and distinguishes between children (under 14) and adolescents (14-17).

Ausgehzeiten — Restaurants, Nightclubs, Events

Age	Restaurant (without parents)	Nightclub/Club	Cinema
Under 14	Until 20:00 (with food only)	☐ Prohibited	Until 20:00
14-15	Until 22:00	☐ Prohibited	Until 22:00
16-17	Until 24:00	Until 24:00	Until 24:00

With a caregiver (not only parents — also an adult authorized by the parents) these restrictions **do not apply**.

Alkohol — Clear Age Limits

- **Under 16:** No alcohol — neither purchase nor consumption in public

- **From 16:** Beer, wine and sparkling wine permitted
- **From 18:** All alcoholic beverages, including spirits and spirit-based cocktails

Violations are **not punished for the young person**, but for the **seller/host** (fine up to €50,000).

Smoking & E-Cigarettes

Since 2007: **Tobacco products and e-cigarettes must not be sold or given to persons under 18 years of age.** This also applies to shisha, tobacco heaters and nicotine-free e-cigarettes.

Working as a Minor

Age	Permitted Work
Under 13	Work generally prohibited
13-14	Light work (newspaper delivery, babysitting) — max. 2 hours/day, with parental permission
15-17	Max. 8 hours/day, 40 hours/week, no night work (20:00–6:00), no hazardous work

During **vocational training** (professional apprenticeship), special rules apply under the Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz (JArbSchG).

Media & Internet

The JuSchG also regulates access to films, games and online content:

- **Age ratings** (FSK/USK): 0, 6, 12, 16, 18
- Since 2021: **Interaction risks** (chats, purchases, contact functions) are considered in classification
- Parents are responsible for media consumption at home

For Parents from Abroad

German youth protection rules apply **regardless of origin**. Even if different rules apply in your home country, everyone in Germany must comply with the Jugendschutzgesetz. For questions, **youth welfare offices** (Jugendämter) and **educational counseling services** can help (free and multilingual).