

Children, Young Persons and the new Act

One of the aims of the Gambling Act is to protect children and young persons. A person ceases to fit this description when they achieve the age of 18.

In broad terms, a person under 18 years of age is not permitted to gamble.

There are some exceptions. These are:

- Participation in private or non-commercial betting or gaming.
- Using the lowest category of gaming machines (category D).

In addition to the above, a person aged 16 years of age or over may participate in lotteries or pool betting on association football. Subject to the exceptions above it is an offence for a person aged 16 or 17 to take part in gambling activities. It is also an offence to invite a person under 18 years of age to take part in gambling and this includes advertising or other actions which bring the facilities to their attention.

A person under the age of 18 is not permitted to enter whilst gambling facilities are being provided:

- A casino*
- A betting shop
- An adult gaming centre
- Parts of a family entertainment centre or track (horse or dog racing) where Category C gaming machines are available.

It is an offence for a person under 18 years to enter these premises or for a person to invite a child or young person into the premises.

*Children and young persons may enter the non-gambling area of a regional casino.