

The Convention on the Rights of the Child – Short Version

GENERAL ARTICLES

Art. 1 – Definition of a child: A human being who is below 18 years of age.

Art. 41 – Respect for better national standards: If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the convention, those laws must apply.

Art. 42 – 54: Implementation measures: These articles explain how adults and governments must work together to ensure that all children's rights are respected.

THE NEEDS & BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD

Art. 3 – The best interests of the child: Everyone who works with children should always do what is best for the child.

EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

Art. 2 – Non-discrimination: All rights apply to all children without exception. The state has an obligation to protect children from any kind of discrimination.

Art. 23 – Disabilities: You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in the Convention, so that you can live a full life.

Art. 30 – Minorities: You have the right to practice your culture, language, and religion, also if you are part of a minority group.

PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION

Art. 12 – Respect for the views of a child: You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Art. 13 – Freedom of expression: You have the right to seek out and share information, as well as your own opinion by talking, drawing, writing or by using any other way – unless it offends or is harmful to other people.

Art. 14 – Religion: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs.

Art. 15 – Freedom of association: You have the right to choose your own friends and to join or organise groups, as long as it is not harmful to others.

Art. 16 – Right to privacy: You have the right to privacy.

Art. 17 – Access to information: You have the right to get information that is important for your well-being (TV, radio, newspapers, books).

PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT

Art. 6 – The right to life: Everyone has the right to be alive.

Art. 4 – Protection of rights: The government has the responsibility to make sure your rights are protected.

Art. 5 – Parental guidance: Your family has the responsibility to help you to exercise your rights, and to ensure your rights are protected.

Art. 7 – Name & nationality: You have the right to a name and a nationality. And, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by your parents.

Art. 8 – Preservation of identity: Governments should respect children's rights to a name, nationality and family ties.

Art. 9 & 10 – Live with parents: You have the right to live with your parent(s), and to stay in contact with both your parents if they do not live together, unless it is bad for you. If you live in a different country than your parents, you have the right to move between the countries to stay in contact or be reunited as a family.

Art. 18 – Parental responsibilities & state assistance: You have the right to be raised by your parents if possible. The state should offer appropriate assistance.

Art. 20 – Orphaned children: You have the right to special care and help from the state if you cannot live with your parents.

Art. 21 – Adoption: You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Art. 11 – Kidnapping: You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Art. 19, 34, 36, 39 – Protection from violence & abuse: You have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect, sexual or other exploitation and to receive rehabilitation if it has taken place.

Art. 22 – Refugee children: If a child is a refugee or seeking refuge, governments must ensure that they have the same rights as any other child.

Art. 25 – Review of treatment in care: If a child has been placed in care outside the home, they have the right to have their living arrangements and conditions of care reviewed regularly.

Art. 24 – Health: You have the right to the best health care possible – safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean & safe environment, and information to help you stay healthy.

Art. 26 – Social security: You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Art. 27 – Living standard: You have the right to good living conditions. Governments should help families or guardians who cannot provide this, particularly in regards to food, clothing, and a safe place to live.

Art. 28, 29 – Education: You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education you are capable of. The education should develop your personality, talents, and abilities to the fullest. It should also teach you about human rights and about your own culture.

Art. 31 – Rest & play: You have the right to play and rest.

Art. 32 – Child Labour: You have the right to protection from work that harms you and is bad for your health and education.

Art. 33 – Drug abuse: You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and drug trade.

Art. 35 – Abduction, sale and trafficking: The government should take all measures possible to make sure that children are not abducted, sold, and trafficked.

Art. 37 – Detention & punishment: No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Art. 38 – War & armed conflicts: You have the right to protection and freedom from war. If under 15 you cannot be forced to join the army.

Art. 40 – Juvenile justice: You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects your rights.