

# Body Art, Alcohol, Gambling, Drugs & Driving

## Tattoos

In the Northern Territory there are no laws about what age you need to be to legally get a tattoo however there is an industry standard that reputable practitioners adhere to, which is 18. If you are younger than 18 you may need your parent's consent.

A tattoo is permanent and therefore you should consider your decision very carefully. You should also consider the risks involved. For example, there is a risk that you could contract an infectious disease such as Hepatitis C if the tools being used have not been cleaned properly. It is important to make sure that the place where you are getting the tattoo is safe, hygienic, and complies with the health regulations.

## Body Piercing

In the Northern Territory there are no laws about what age you need to be to have your body pierced however there is an industry standard that reputable practitioners adhere to. Generally the minimum age for breast/genital piercing is 18, naval piercing is 15 and any other piercing is 13 (however ears can be pierced if a person is under 13 with parental consent). It is important to make sure that the place where you are getting your piercing done is safe, hygienic, and complies with the health regulations.

## Buying Cigarettes

You must be at least eighteen years old before you can legally buy cigarettes. A person selling cigarettes is allowed to ask you for proof of your age. They are also allowed to confiscate your identification if they suspect that it is false.

It is an offence to use false identification or another person's identification to buy cigarettes. It is an offence for a person over eighteen years old to buy cigarettes for someone underage.

## Gambling

You must be at least eighteen years of age to be able to gamble in the Northern Territory.

Persons under eighteen are allowed to attend TAB Agency premises or any other venue that does not have a liquor licence but cannot engage in gambling.

There are some premises where gaming machines or TAB facilities are within the premises where minors may attend, but must not enter the specified gaming areas. The individual licensed premises Liquor Licence sets out the rules for their particular premises.

## Drinking and Buying Alcohol

You must be at least eighteen years old to buy alcohol in the Northern Territory.

### In a private place

When you are under eighteen years old only a 'responsible adult' can let you drink in a private place like your home. The law says a 'responsible adult' is an adult who is a parent, step parent or guardian of a child or otherwise an adult who has parental rights and responsibilities for a child.

The 'responsible adult' also has to be the person who supplies you with the alcohol and needs to supervise you while drinking to protect you from harm. The law takes the following factors into account when considering whether there is reasonable supervision of a child who is drinking: whether either the supervising adult or the child is drunk, the age of the child, whether the child is also eating while drinking, how much the child is drinking and how fast.

Community welfare authorities may intervene into family situations if a child is in danger.

### In a public place

If you are under 18 years of age you are not allowed to drink alcohol in a public place. Public places include: beaches, parks, shopping centres, buses and car parks.

### Keeping people safe

If you are going to drink, even if you are old enough to drink unsupervised, then it's important that you put in place some strategies to keep you safe:

- ⦿ Never drink on an empty stomach – have something to eat before and while drinking (watch those salty thirst inducing snacks)
- ⦿ Plan for a non-drinker to be with your group who can drive and keep an eye on you

- ⦿ Set a limit on how many drinks you will have at the beginning of the night and stick to that limit
- ⦿ Don't try to keep up with others in your group by drinking more. Everyone has different levels of tolerance for alcohol
- ⦿ Alternate water with every alcoholic beverage. This will help you to stay hydrated and more in control
- ⦿ Avoid spirits, shots and rounds of drinks
- ⦿ Prepare or buy your own drink and then watch it. Never pick up a drink that has been left unattended
- ⦿ Never leave a place drunk on your own or leave a mate who is drunk by themselves
- ⦿ If you or a mate has had too much to drink and things are going wrong then you can call 000 for assistance. 'Keeping people safe' especially young people is a top priority for the Northern Territory Police
- ⦿ If you are wanting to talk with someone about alcohol and other drug issues, you can call the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) telephone hotline: 1800 131 350

## Drugs

Drugs are usually categorised into two groups.

### Drugs (medication) prescribed by a doctor.

These drugs are considered legal. It is illegal however to give or sell your prescription drugs to other people.

### Illicit drugs

These drugs are illegal and include drugs such as cannabis, speed, ecstasy and heroin. It is a crime to have, take or supply illegal drugs. The law views drug offences very seriously and heavy penalties may be imposed.

### Drug Offences include:

- ⦿ **Administering** Using illicit drugs eg smoking and injecting
- ⦿ **Possessing** Having drugs at your house, in your car or on your body (eg: in your pockets)
- ⦿ **Cultivating** Growing a drug eg growing a marijuana plant
- ⦿ **Manufacture & Production** Making or mixing drugs. Helping others to make drugs
- ⦿ **Supply** Selling or dealing drugs to other people  
This includes giving drugs to your friends for free

If you have committed a drug offence it is likely you will be charged with a criminal offence. This could mean going through Youth Diversion or going to the Youth Justice Court.

### Where do I get help for drug and alcohol problem?

See 'Useful Contacts' in the back of this guide book.

## Driving and Cars

### Getting learner driving permit

To get a learner permit in the Northern Territory you must:

- ⦿ Be at least sixteen years old
- ⦿ Ask your parents to sign a consent form agreeing for you to apply for a learner permit (if you are under 17). This can be downloaded on the internet at:  
[www.transport.nt.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/19734/ibl01.pdf](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/19734/ibl01.pdf)
- ⦿ Complete the Application Form
- ⦿ Pass the Motor Vehicle Registry Theory Test
- ⦿ Pass an eyesight test

### Getting a provisional driving permit

To get a provisional permit in the Northern Territory you must;

- ⦿ Have held a learner licence for six consecutive months
- ⦿ Pass the practical driving test which is conducted at Motor Vehicle Registry Offices and Police Outstations
- ⦿ Pay the driving test fee
- ⦿ Provide a vehicle in which to do your test. The vehicle must be registered, roadworthy, clean and have an "L" plate displayed at the front and rear of the vehicle

### Registering a car

All vehicles (motor vehicles, trailers and motorbikes) travelling on Northern Territory roads must be registered, roadworthy, and carry compulsory third party insurance. If you are planning to buy a vehicle in the Northern Territory it is your responsibility to transfer that vehicle's ownership and registration into your name.

To transfer a vehicle into your name you will need to complete the application form which is available on the Motor Vehicle Registry website.