



Parental Power

Question: How long do my parents
have control of me?



In Georgia

- If both parents have custody, they both have control of her/him and are entitled to her/his services and the proceeds of her/his labor until the age of 18. If only one parent has custody, then only the one with custody is entitled to her/his services and the proceeds of her/his labor.



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Question: If my parents are separated or divorced, do I have any right to decide which parent I want to live with?



In Georgia

- Georgia law gives to minors, 14 years of age and older, the legal right to choose their custodial parent when the parents are divorced or separated. Unless the parent chosen by the child is found to be unfit, the Courts must honor the child's wishes. The same rule applies to the child's wishes concerning visitation with the parent who does not have custody.



Parental Power

Question: Is it possible for parents to lose their parental control?



In Georgia

- Yes. A parent can voluntarily give up parental rights. An example of this is when a parent consents to the adoption of a child. In addition, a parent's rights may be taken away by a court of law because of misconduct or unfitness on the part of the parent.



Parental Power

Question: What are parents' obligations to their children?

In Georgia

- It is the duty of each parent to provide for the maintenance, protection, and education of his or her child until the child attains age 18, or marries, or otherwise becomes emancipated.





Parental Power

Question: At what age will my child become an adult with all the rights and privileges of adults?



In Georgia

- The age of majority in Georgia is age 18. When your child becomes age 18, she/he will have the right to vote, to enter into contracts, and to enjoy all the rights and to bear all the responsibilities of adulthood. The only exception to this is the prohibition against purchasing, possessing and using alcohol until they reach 21.



Parental Power

Question: Does my child have to wait until she/he is 18 before she/he can join the army or other branch of the armed forces?

In Georgia

- With permission of their parent or guardian (custodial), your child can join the armed forces at age 17.

