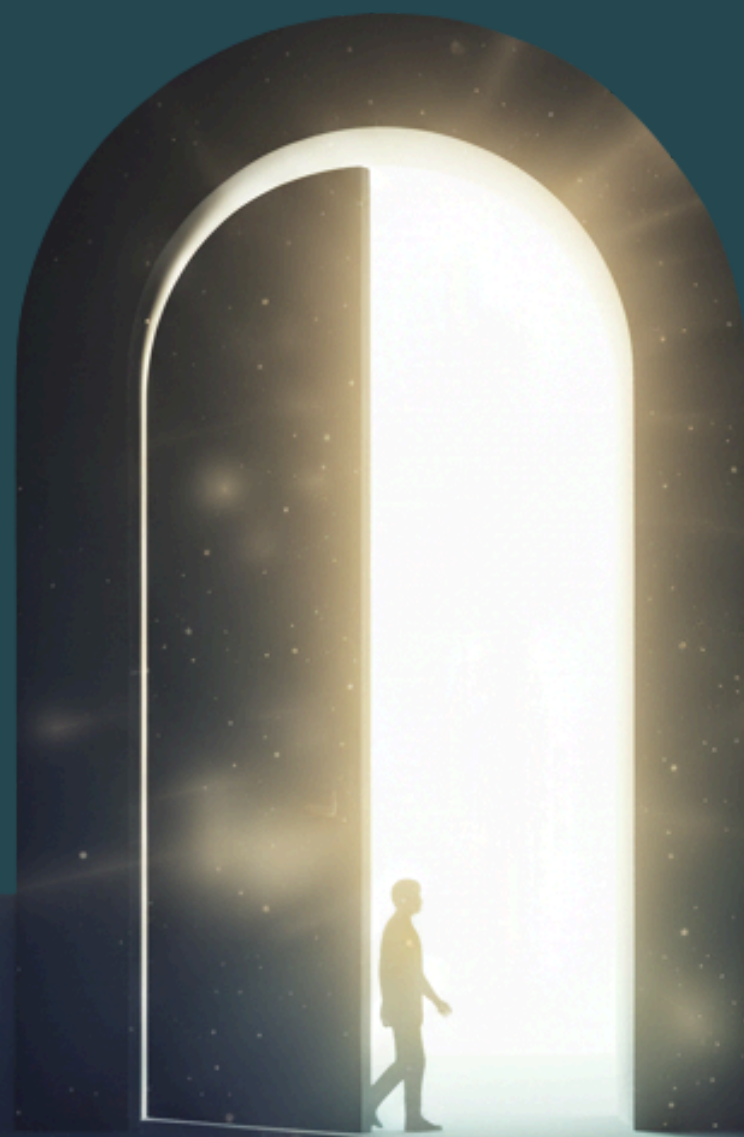




AGE OF MAJORITY ACT

Cap 43 R.E,2023

Transitioning to Legal Adulthood: Rights,
Responsibilities, and Tanzanian Law



Lyson law group

KNOWLEDGE HUB PUBLICATION

1.0 Introduction

The Age of Majority Act is a statute that formally establishes the legal age at which an individual is considered an adult. This Act standardizes the age of majority across the country, ensuring consistency in legal matters concerning adulthood.

1.1. Reasons for Enactment)

The primary objectives behind enacting the Age of Majority Act included but were not limited to the following:

Attainment of Uniformity and to harmonize the legal age of adulthood across Tanzania, replacing any prior inconsistencies.

Ensuring legal clarity and to provide clear guidelines on when individuals attain full legal capacity.

Alignment with International standards and to conform with global norms recognizing 18 years as the age of majority.

1.2. Importance of Age of Majority Act

The importance of the Age of Majority Act in Tanzania can therefore be outline as stated below; The Age of Majority Act establishes the legal age at which a person is considered an adult (18 years) in Tanzania. Its importance lies in:

- **Legal Capacity:** It determines when individuals can enter contracts, own property, and make binding decisions without parental consent.
- **Protection of Minors:** Ensures that those below 18 are safeguarded from exploitation in legal and financial matters.
- **Uniformity:** Provides a clear, standardized age of adulthood across Tanzanian law, reducing ambiguity in legal proceedings.
- **Access to Rights and Responsibilities:** Marks the point where individuals gain full civil, political, and social responsibilities, including voting and marriage consent.
- **Judicial Reference:** Guides courts in matters involving capacity, inheritance, contracts, and criminal responsibility.

In essence, it balances protection for minors with recognition of adult rights and responsibilities.

2.0 Compliance

The Age of Majority Act is applicable throughout mainland Tanzania. However, it's important to note that Zanzibar, as a semi-autonomous region, may have its own laws and regulations concerning the age of majority.

2.1. Amendments and Revisions

As of the latest available information, the Age of Majority Act has not undergone any amendments or revisions since its enactment. The Act remains in its original form, with no updates or changes recorded in the official legal records.

2.2. Repeals

The Age of Majority Act does not explicitly repeal any previous legislation. However, by establishing the age of majority at 18, it implicitly overrides any conflicting provisions in earlier laws that set a different age for majority.

3.0 Repeals

The Age of Majority Act comprises three sections: This Act is cited as the Age of Majority Act. Every person domiciled in Tanzania shall attain full age and cease to be under any disability of minority at the beginning of the eighteenth anniversary of the day on which they were born.

This Act shall not affect the capacity of any person to marry, the religion or religious rites and usages of any class of persons in Tanzania, the provisions of any Act which expressly prescribe any age as conferring capacity for any purpose, the provisions of any law when the law applicable is customary law or any rule of customary law which prescribes any age or condition as conferring capacity for any purpose, Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2, a minor in respect of whose person or property or both a guardian has been appointed prior to the coming into operation of this Act shall attain full age at the beginning of the twenty-first anniversary of the day on which they were born.

REFERENCES

The Age of Majority Act, Cap 43 R.E,2023

Index for Volume I-XX, Principal Legislation [Revised Edition],2023