

Ages of Majority in Quebec and France

When we are reading the French marriage records, they always mention if the bride and the groom are minors [mineur(e)] or one who had reached the age of majority [majeur(e)]. What exactly were the ages of Mineurs or Majeurs at the time the marriage was celebrated? It varies. The following information was translated from the Montreal SGCF Society "Memoires" journal, Vol 56, Book 243, Spring 2005, page 31 article written by Helene Lamarche & Guy Desjardins.

Marriage and Civil Ages of Majority in Quebec & France Comparison Table			
	Puberty Legal Minimum age for marriage; Parental Consent Required	Marriage Majority Legal age from which lawful Parental Consent is no longer required	Civil or Civic Majority Legal age from which a person can fully exercise all their rights
Canon Law of the Catholic Church			
Before 1917	Girls: 12 years Boys: 14 years		
Beginning 1917	Girls: 14 years Boys: 16 years		
Beginning 1983 Canon 97	Girls: 14 years Boys: 16 years		
Quebec - Civil Law			
Begin to 1 Jan 1765 French Regime	Girls: 12 years Boys: 14 years	Girls: 25 years Boys: 30 years	Generally 25 Years
1 Jan 1765 British Regime		Girls & Boys: 21 Years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years
1866 Civil Code of Quebec	Girls: 12 years Boys: 14 years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years
1 Jan 1972 Civil Code Bill 66	Girls & Boys: 18 Years (16 Yrs with Parental Consent)	Girls & Boys: 18 Years	Girls & Boys: 18 Years
France Civil Law			
1556 to 29 Sep 1792 Royal Legislation	Girls: 12 years Boys: 14 years	Girls: 25 years Boys: 30 years	Generally 25 Years
29 Sep 1792 to 30 Ventose Year 12 *	Girls: 13 years Boys: 15 years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years
30 Ventose Year 12 * to 21 Jul 1907	Girls: 15 years Boys: 18 years	Girls: 21 years Boys: 25 years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years
21 Jul 1907 to 5 Jul 1974 Civil Code	Girls: 15 years Boys: 18 years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years	Girls & Boys: 21 Years
Since 5 Jul 1974		Girls & Boys: 18 Years	Girls & Boys: 18 Years
* = (1803) Republican Calendar			