



# Employment of Minors in Mercantile/Retail Trades

## Time and Hour Restrictions for Young Persons Under Age 18

### During school weeks (16-17 years of age):

- 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (If no school the next day, permitted hours are extended to 11 p.m. or midnight if employed in a supermarket of more than 3,500 sq. ft. in size).
- No more than 6 hours per day/32 hours per week/6 days per week.
- No more than 8 hours per day on non-school days or days not preceding a school day (normally Friday, Saturday or Sunday).

### During non-school weeks (16-17 years of age):

- 8 hours per day/48 hours per week - no more than 6 days per week.



**Minors who have withdrawn from school**  
are subject to the non-school week restrictions.

**15-Year-Old Minors** can be employed as baggers, cashiers or stock clerks in most mercantile/retail establishments and may work during non-school weeks only - for no longer than 8 hours per day, 40 hours per week, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., except from July 1 through Labor Day, when evening hours may be extended until 9 p.m. Retail food stores may employ 15-year-old minors on Saturdays only until 7 p.m. for no longer than 8 hours during the school year.

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## Minimum Wage

\$14.00 per hour effective July 1, 2022

\$15.00 per hour effective June 1, 2023

Annually indexed to cost of living effective Jan. 2, 2024

Minors may be paid 85% of Minimum Wage during their first 90 days of employment.

**A Statement of Age/Working Paper is required for all employees under the age of 18.**

### **Inquiries or complaints of violation should be sent to:**

Connecticut Department of Labor - Wage & Workplace Standards Division

200 Folly Brook Boulevard - Wethersfield, CT 06109

(860) 263-6791 - [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)

*This notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in rooms where minors are employed. See applicable laws on back.*

**Sec. 31-23. Employment of minors prohibited in certain occupations. Exceptions.** (a) No minor under sixteen years of age shall be employed or permitted to work in any manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile or theatrical industry, restaurant or public dining room, or in any bowling alley, shoe-shining establishment or barber shop, provided the Labor Commissioner may authorize such employment of any minor between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who is enrolled in (1) a public school in a work-study program as defined and approved by the Commissioner of Education and the Labor Commissioner or in a program established pursuant to section 10-20a, or (2) a summer work-recreation program sponsored by a town, city or borough or by a human resources development agency which has been approved by the Labor Commissioner, or both, and provided the prohibitions of this section shall not apply to any minor over the age of fourteen who is under vocational probation pursuant to an order of the Superior Court as provided in section 46b-140 or to any minor over the age of fourteen who has been placed on vocational parole by the Commissioner of Children and Families.

(d) Each person who employs a minor under the age of eighteen years shall obtain a certificate stating the age of such minor as provided in section 10-193. Such certificates shall be kept on file at the place of employment and shall be available at all times during business hours to the inspectors of the Labor Department.

**Sec. 31-13. Hours of labor of minors, elderly and handicapped persons in mercantile establishments.** (a) No person under the age of eighteen years who is not enrolled in and has not graduated from a secondary educational institution shall be employed in any mercantile establishment more than eight hours in any one day, or more than six days in any one calendar week or more than forty-eight hours in any one calendar week.

(b) If the Labor Commissioner finds, upon application of an employer, that an emergency exists or that seasonal or peak demand places an unusual and temporary burden upon any mercantile establishment, any such person under the age of eighteen years may be employed in such establishment not more than ten hours in any day and not more than fifty-two hours in any calendar week, but the total number of weeks of any such employment in any twelve months shall not exceed eight.

(c) No person under eighteen years of age who is enrolled in a secondary education institution shall be employed in any mercantile establishment more than (1) six hours in any regularly scheduled school day unless the regularly scheduled school day immediately precedes a nonschool day or eight hours in any other day, and (2) thirty-two hours in any calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is in session, or forty-eight hours in any other calendar week during which the school in which such person is enrolled is not in session. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the number of hours such person participates in a work experience that is part of an approved educational plan, cooperative program or school-to-work program shall not be counted against the daily or weekly limits set forth in this section.

(d) Each employer in any such establishment shall post in a conspicuous place in each room where such persons are employed a notice, the form of which shall be furnished by the Labor Commissioner, stating specifically the hours of work required of such persons on each day of the week, and the employment of any such persons for a longer time than so stated shall be a violation of this section.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to permanent salaried employees in executive, managerial or supervisory positions excepted from the provisions of part I of chapter 5581 who receive a regular salary of not less than the minimum fixed for such employment in any wage order or administrative regulation issued under authority of said part, or to persons under eighteen years of age who have graduated from a secondary educational institution.

**Sec. 31-14. Night work of minors regulated.** (a) No person under eighteen years of age shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening and six o'clock in the morning, except that such persons may be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment until eleven o'clock in the evening or any supermarket until twelve o'clock midnight on any night other than a night preceding a regularly scheduled school day. No such person may be discharged or discriminated against in any manner for refusing to work later than ten o'clock in the evening.

**Sec. 31-15a. Criminal penalty.** Any employer, officer, agent or other person who violates any provision of section 31-12, 31-13 or 31-14, subsection (a) of section 31-15 or section 31-18, 31-23 or 31-24 shall be fined not less than two thousand nor more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, for each offense.

**Sec. 31-69a. Additional penalty.** (a) In addition to the penalties provided in this chapter and chapter 568, any employer, officer, agent or other person who violates any provision of this chapter or subsection (g) of section 31-288, shall be liable to the Labor Department for a civil penalty of three hundred dollars for each violation of said chapters and for each violation of subsection (g) of section 31-288.

(b) In addition to the penalties provided in this chapter and chapter 557, any employer, officer, agent or other person who violates any provision of section 31-12, 31-13 or 31-14, subsection (a) of section 31-15 or section 31-18, 31-23 or 31-24 shall be liable to the Labor Department for a civil penalty of six hundred dollars for each violation of said sections.