

Child marriage – this is what applies in Sweden

In Sweden, everyone under the age of 18 is considered a child. No one is allowed to marry a child in Sweden. Children have the right to go to school and to an education, to have opportunities for leisure interests and to develop as individuals. Living in a marriage means responsibilities that a child should not have.

In Sweden you have the right to

- decide over your own body, no one is allowed to have sex with you if you do not want to.
- use contraceptives if you do not want to become pregnant.
- have an abortion if you want to end a pregnancy.

All children have the same rights

In Sweden you have the same rights even if you fall in love with someone of the same gender. These rights apply even if you are girl but feel like a boy or vice versa.

You also have the same rights if you have a disability or illness.

Help and support

You can always get help and support from the social services in your municipality.

Child marriage – laws and regulations in Sweden

According to Swedish law, no one is allowed to marry a person under the age of 18.

No one is allowed to force a child to marry

It is against the law to force a child living in Sweden to marry or to live in a marriage-like relationship .

It is also against the law to force or trick a child into travelling to another country for any such reason.

These are crimes that can lead to imprisonment.



Foreign child marriages will not be valid in Sweden

From January 1st 2019, any marriage between couples younger than the age of 18 will not be valid in Sweden.

Certain exceptions can be made to make the marriage valid. For example, both parties have to be over the age of 18 when they apply for marriage registration in Sweden. The couple also have to have been married before January 1st 2019, or are able to claim “exceptional reasons” for validation. Exceptional reasons can for example be that an invalid marriage can result in serious consequences to both parties. Applications for serious exceptions will be assessed on an individual basis.

If you want to know more, talk to your social worker, your guardian or the school counsellor. You can also contact, for example, BRIS (Children’s Rights in Society) or Save the Children.

If you are under the age of 15

All children under the age of 15 have an absolute right to be protected from sex. It is a crime to have sex with someone under the age of 15. It is a crime called rape of a child.

If you are under the age of 15 and have had sex, this does not mean that you have done something wrong.

You can get help by talking to an adult you trust and who can help you get support. You can also get help to report it to the police.

These laws exist to protect children and for children to have a safe childhood.

Help and support

At the youth clinic in the municipality where you live you can get information about things like health and sex. The website Youmo.se has information in several languages about sex, health and relationships.

If you are under the age of 18 and have children

Your child has the same right as you have to feel good and be safe.

You are the guardian of your child even if you are under the age of 18. A guardian has the responsibility and the right to take decisions for the child.

If you have any questions about being a parent or want support to help you take care of your child, you can contact the social services in your municipality.

If you and the other parent of your child will not be living together

Children have a right to both their parents. This also applies if you no longer live with the other parent of your child.

If you will not be living together, the social services can help you decide where the child will live and how both of you will have contact with the child.

Child marriage – support and help

If you are wondering about anything or need help, there are a number of people you can contact.

For example, you can talk to:

- your guardian or specially appointed custodian
- your social worker at the social services
- your teacher at school
- your school counsellor or school nurse
- staff at the youth clinic.

There are laws that limit what adults who work with children can say about you to others. It is called confidentiality and professional secrecy.

If the person you are talking to becomes concerned and believes that what you are telling them may be dangerous for you, they may need to report it to social services. The report they file is called a report of concern. The purpose of that report is for you to get the right help and not be left alone in a difficult situation. The social services are responsible for ensuring that children are safe and secure while they are growing up.

Emergency situation – dial 112

If you face an emergency situation and need help quickly, you should call the police on phone number 112.

You can get more information from here

New in Sweden – for children and young people

New in Sweden has a lot of information for you if you are a child or a young person and are new in Sweden.

Young person's hotline

If you are in contact with the social services or healthcare or live in a student hostel, you are entitled to contact IVO for information about your rights. You can call 020-120 06 06 or chat.

Forced marriage

Hedersförtryck.se has films for children and young people about forced marriage

Sex, health and relationships

Youmo.se has information for young people about sex, health and relationships. Here you can read, watch films and much more.

Crimes against children

I want to know, jagvillveta.se, has information for children and young people who have been subjected to crime.

Children's Rights in Society

Tel. 116 111

Bris is where you can call, email or chat if you need to talk to an adult. The website has been translated into many languages.

Violence against women helpline

Tel. 020-50 50 50

If you have been threatened or subjected to physical, mental or sexual violence.

If you want to meet someone and talk

School counsellor

Every school has a school counsellor who provides support to children at school.

Ask a teacher or someone else at the school about how to get in touch with the counsellor.

Body, sex and contraceptives

You can go to a youth clinic if you have questions about your body, sex or contraceptives. You can also go there if you don't feel well and need someone to talk to.

Meet other LGBT people

RFSL Newcomers is a network for asylum seeking, undocumented and newly arrived LGBT people. Email newcomers@rfsl.se

www.kollpasoc.se/barnaktenskap