

## Voting

Voting is not compulsory in New Zealand. If you are eligible to vote, you are required to enrol as an elector.

You are eligible to vote if:

- You are a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand
- You have resided in New Zealand for 12 months or more
- You are over 18 years old
- You have enrolled to vote.

Enrolment forms can be collected from your nearest Post Office. Electoral records are maintained by the Registrar of Electors. If you change address, it is advisable to inform the Registrar. This can be arranged at any Post Office.

You are automatically enrolled to vote in Regional and local Council elections, once you have enrolled to vote in general Elections.

### Elections New Zealand

[www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

## The Police

New Zealand is a safe and law-abiding society by international standards. The New Zealand Police do not routinely carry firearms and they are generally considered helpful and friendly. The Police enforce both criminal and traffic laws, and carry out a range of community programmes.

For further information on home and personal safety go to

### New Zealand Police

[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

### 24 hour Police Service

City Centre

1214 Fenton Street

T. 07 348 0099

### Community Police Centres

#### City Focus

Cnr of Tutanekai & Hinemoa Streets

T. 07 349 9594

#### Ngongotaha

Taui Street

T. 07 357 2454

#### Te Ngae

##### Vaughan Road

T. 07 345 3453

#### Reporoa

Broadlands Road

T. 07 334 0000

#### Western Heights

Brookland Road

T. 07 349 2949

**In an emergency or if you see anything suspicious please dial 111 immediately.**

## Firearms

All firearms and guns must be registered.

Owners must complete a course before obtaining a firearms licence.

For further information contact the

### Arms Officer

New Zealand Police

T. 07 349 9475

### The legal ages for various activities in New Zealand are:

Age	Activity
5	starting school (earliest age)
14	a babysitter's minimum age
14	leaving a child alone in your house
15	getting a restricted driving licence
16	leaving school (earliest age)
16	living with a partner
16	age of consent for sex
16	getting a tattoo
16	getting married or having a civil union (with parents' permission)
17	getting a full driving licence
18	buying alcohol
18	buying cigarettes
18	getting married or having a civil union (without parents' permission)
18	borrowing money
18	joining the Police force
19	the right to free education ends

## Alcohol

Alcohol is not permitted in the Central Business District except at licensed premises and Police strictly enforce this and all other alcohol related crime such as drunk driving.

## Legal Ages

A range of age limits apply to different activities under New Zealand law. For instance, it is illegal to leave a child alone at home under the age of 14, and you must be 18 before you are legally allowed to purchase cigarettes and alcohol.

For further information about your rights and responsibilities as a teenager contact

### Youth Law

E. [info@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:info@youthlaw.co.nz)

[www.youthlaw.co.nz](http://www.youthlaw.co.nz)

## Getting Legal Help

Lawyers are required to provide confidential and independent advice.

Lawyers undertake a vast range of legal work including:

- Checking legal documents
- Providing conveyancing services for properties
- Draft wills
- Family law
- Provide representation in cases involving the Police

Legal fees vary widely. It's advisable to enquire about fees before commissioning legal work.

See  Yellow 'Lawyers'

### Websites

[www.howtolaw.co.nz](http://www.howtolaw.co.nz)

[www.lawaccess.lsa.govt.nz](http://www.lawaccess.lsa.govt.nz)