

AGE



WHAT CAN YOU DO LEGALLY?

Watch any film with a Universal sign.
Babysit!

HOW AN ABI CAN CHANGE THINGS.

Watching films with an ABI is fine but babysitting is too stressful and you could do without it.



Open a savings account and withdraw money from it.

This is fine even if you have an ABI although maybe you should get your parents to look after it for you as money and numbers can be confusing.



Go to prison if it is proven that you knew you were doing wrong!

This won't apply to you as you won't be going out committing crimes anyway!



Buy a pet!
See a film with a '12 rating'
Be trained as a dangerous tricks performer!

Pets require lots of attention and maybe you need to focus more on feeling better.
Watching films is fine!
You've probably had enough excitement recently without performing dangerous tricks.



Work part time - like get a paper round.

It is unlikely you will want to get a job yet because your ABI can leave you feeling tired and you still need time to recover.



Own an air rifle!
Drive a tractor on
farmland.
Go into a pub but you
can't buy alcohol.
Be found guilty of
ANY crime!

Guns are dangerous at
the best of times and
why would you want
one anyway?!
An ABI can affect you
ability to learn to
drive. Some people do
although this often
depends on their head
injury. The more
serious your head
injury the less
likely it will be you
will be able to drive
a tractor or car.



Open a bank account
(as long as an adult
guarantees it for
you).
Go to a young
offenders Institution
or even Prison if you
commit a crime.

You could have a bank
account if you really
wanted one, but it
would be a good idea
to have a parent to
look after it for
you. You may have
trouble with numbers
and maths after your
ABI and so bank
accounts can be hard
to manage.



The big 16! Most teenagers can't wait to be 16 because they can do all sorts legally - leave school and work full time (but not in a pub or betting shop!) Leave home if your parents agree. Get married - if you really, really want to and if your parents agree. Join a trade union. Have sex- you both have to be over 16 to have sex though! Buy cigarettes and tobacco, fireworks and liqueur chocolates. Drink alcohol in a restaurant as long as you are eating a meal. Buy lottery tickets, scratch cards and premium bonds. Drive a moped, invalid carriage or tractor! Boys can Join the army, navy and RAF if you parents agree! Fly solo in a glider!

Although you may be 16, remember your ABI may have affected you in such a way that you might not be able to take the responsibility of these things! Leaving school will be tricky because you will need rehabilitation so that your brain can relearn things. Getting a job might be too stressful at the moment! Leaving home to live on you own is probably not best for you now as you still need support of those around you. Maybe you are leaving home to go to rehab and this is very different! Getting married is probably not the best move at the moment! You are busy adjusting! If you are going to have sex it means taking responsibility. You want to stay healthy and there are lots of sexually transmitted diseases you can get if you aren't careful. You could also risk getting pregnant or getting someone pregnant. Babies are very demanding so you probably don't want to have them until you quite a bit older and more adjusted to your ABI! Cigarettes stink and cause cancer. It really is not cool and some people hate it!



CONTINUED

Drinking alcohol can make you feel funny and getting drunk may cause you more problems because of your ABI.

Driving a moped is too dangerous at the moment as your ABI can make it hard to learn to drive. That goes of tractors and planes too!

It is too soon to join the army!



Learn to drive a car, van or tractor.

Buy a gun and ammunition!

Fly a plane!

Learn to fly a helicopter.

Be tried for a crime.

Be interrogated by the police without any adults present.

Girls can join the army, RAF or navy.

17 is the legal age for straight sex in Northern Ireland.

Learning to drive can be very tricky after an ABI and the more serious your ABI the less likely it will be that you will be able to learn to drive. This goes for all road vehicles, and also planes and helicopters. This might make you feel sad but it is important that you don't have unrealistic expectations.



YOU ARE NOW AN ADULT.

This is the bit that everyone can't wait to get to. You can basically do what you want without your parents say so. Just remember that there are responsibilities in everything you do.

You can;

Get married

Serve on a jury

Join the army, navy and RAF

Buy and drink alcohol.

Work in a bar.

Get a tattoo.

Own land.

Bet,

Enter into a contract like a mortgage.

Change your name.

See a film rated '18'.

Try to bear in mind that your ABI has slowed things down for you! You need to spend time adjusting so it's unlikely you will be able to do all of the same things that other 18 year olds do. This is not necessarily a bad thing! Being 18 can cause you lots of problems and give you lots of responsibilities too. A lot of the things you can do at 18 we've already talked about but Alcohol is the big one here! Alcohol can cause you to do all sorts of things and although it might be fun to get a bit tipsy, getting drunk can cause you all sorts of problems. It can exaggerate problems you have from your ABI and can also kill off brain cells!