

DID YOU KNOW?



1. At what age can you be charged with a crime (ex. Arson) in the state of Colorado?
a) 8 b) 10 c) 15 d) 18
2. If you don't mean to hurt anyone or don't intend to damage property (even a field or bush) by starting a fire, is it still arson?
a) yes b) no c) sometimes
3. If you start a fire that causes property damage or hurts someone, can your parents be made to cover the costs?
a) yes b) no c) sometimes
4. According to Colorado State Law, how old do you have to be to legally purchase fireworks?
a) 10 b) 14 c) 15 d) 16
5. According to Colorado State Law, how old do you have to be to use fireworks without an adult supervising you?
a) 10 b) 14 c) 15 d) 16
6. If a firework unintentionally caused a house or a field fire, could you get charged with arson?
a) yes b) no c) sometimes

NOTE: Many fireworks sold in Colorado are illegal for anyone to use, regardless of the person's age. (any type that leaves the ground to explode)

Turn over this sheet for the answers to these questions

Answers:

- 1) Age 10. (b) Each state determines the age that the court believes a child knows the difference between right and wrong. At this age, the court believes that the child should be held responsible for his or her actions. In the State of Colorado, that age is 10 years old
- 2) Yes. (a) There are different levels of arson (first degree through 4th degree). Therefore, you don't have to intend to do harm in order to commit arson. All you have to do is commit a reckless act.
- 3) Yes. (a) Many times a minor's parents will be held liable for any damages and costs associated with the minor's crime. Additional punishment is assigned to the responsible juvenile.
- 4) Age 16. (d) In the State of Colorado it is unlawful for any person under the age of 16 to buy fireworks. Violators may be punished by a fine up to \$750.00, by imprisonment up to six months, or by both fine and imprisonment.
- 5) Age 16. (d) At age 16 you can use fireworks without direct adult supervision. For any age younger than 16, you can only use fireworks with an adult supervising you.
- 6) Yes. (a) This could fall under 4th degree arson or another level of arson. In addition, charges could also include Reckless Endangerment.

* Share this information with other members of your family. *