

What Age Becomes Liable Responsible for a Person's Own Actions?

In the United States, a child is fully responsible for their own actions when they turn 18. This includes civil matters. However, if a child commits a criminal act, they can be held legally accountable at the age of 17. The age of majority is 18 in most states, but there are some exceptions. For example, the age of majority is 21 in Mississippi and 19 in Nebraska. Parents can be held financially liable for damages caused by their child under the age of 18. This is regardless of whether the parent was involved in the incident.

The age of majority in the European Union (EU) is also 18 years old. This means that a person can engage in legal activities and is liable for any contractual obligations. However, Scotland has a lower age of majority at 16 years old. The minimum age of criminal responsibility in continental Europe is 16 years old for murder or manslaughter. The parents still have parental responsibility until the child reaches the age of 18, or 16 if the child marries. The same goes for Canada.

There is an issue with the U.S. and other country law, this liable age matter is against the teaching of TORAH, **אֱלֹהִים**'s law. According to Numbers, chapter 14, the age of 20 is accountably liable age for his or her own actions (sins). By the time the child hit the age of 20, this child had become an adult and is liable and responsible for their own actions. He or she is also no longer under the custody of their parent.

The reason this is true, according to the TANAKH, the age of 20 is also the significant age at which a person becomes liable for military service. In the book of Numbers, chapter one, **אֱלֹהִים** commands Moses to take a census of all the men of Israel who are 20 years old and above, who are able to go to war. This is also repeated in chapter 26, after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, when a new generation is counted for the same purpose.

Third, the age of 20 is also the age at which a person is expected to contribute to the sanctuary. In the book of Exodus, chapter 30, **אֱלֹהִים** instructs Moses to collect a half-shekel from every person who is 20 years old and above, as an atonement for their souls. This money is used for the service of the Tent of Meeting, and as a memorial for the Israelites before the Supreme Father. Therefore, based on these passages, it is true that according to the Tanakh, when a child reaches the age of 20, he or she becomes an adult and is subject to **אֱלֹהִים**'s judgment and commandments for the rest of his or her life. However, this does not mean that children under 20 are exempt from all moral and religious obligations, as the TANAKH also teaches the importance of educating and training children in the ways of **אֱלֹהִים** from an early age.

Here is an example while both parents have been disciplining their child who is so rebellious. The parents still have the full responsibility to deal with the child's disobedience to their parents, and must face punishment. Just as these parents in Deuteronomy 21:18-21 deal with a rebellious son, who is disobedient and defiant to his parents is a sin. It says that if a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, who does not

listen to his father or his mother, and they discipline him but he still does not obey them, they must bring him to the elders of his town, at the gate of the place. The elders of their town must help to resolve and make a decision on what to do with their rebellious stubborn son. It turns out to be a judgment call on what kind of punishment the son must face against punishment. At the end of making the decision on what punishment the son must face against, ends up with a capital punishment is stones to death. The reason for this capital punishment is based on Leviticus 20:9:

“For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.”

Just as we must honor and obey our Supreme Father, אֱלֹהִים, who is our parent also. We must obey HIS commandments, if disobedience HIS law is death; as explained in Leviticus 26:14–32. This is why the elders of the town knew about this law against the rebellious stubborn son. They had to penalty him to death with stone. Again, they had to do this by removing the evil one out. Everyone in Israel also will learn about this and fear this lesson from אֱלֹהִים.

This is why אֱלֹהִים does not punish children for the sins of their parents, but only for their own sins. This is stated in the book of Ezekiel, chapter 18, where the prophet challenges the idea of intergenerational punishment and declares that ***“the one who sins is the one who will die”*** (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). According to this view, a child is responsible for their own choices and can avoid punishment by repenting and doing what is right.

So, brothers and sisters, we can see why our modern-day law and society in whatever country we live in, aren't the same doctrine laws that teach in TANAKH (or Old Testament). Yet, we have to keep in mind what is truly correct and let us discipline our future children to do well in what is right and honorable way that אֱלֹהִים had taught us in TORAH.