

## National Laws

Legislation of Interpol member states on sexual offences against children

# Bahrain – Bahrein - Bahrein

Bahrain

## I. Ages for legal purposes

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### Age of simple majority

The age of simple majority is 21 years of age.

### Age of consent for sexual activity

Considering that Bahrain is an Islamic country, sexual activity should be through marriage only.

### Age of consent for marriage

The age for girls who want to marry without the consent of their father is 21 years of age. Otherwise, boys and girls can marry after the age of fifteen years.

## II. Rape

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Rape is considered as a severe crime.

The one raping a female will be sentenced to life imprisonment. If the female is under 16 he will have a capital punishment or life imprisonment.

The same punishment is provided for having sexual intercourse with female less than 14 years of age, even with her consent.

Having sexual intercourse with a female over 14 years of age and below 16 years of age even with her consent is punishable by 20 years imprisonment.

## III. Other forms of child sex abuse

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**Sexual intercourse with a girl under 14** is considered a rape, as mentioned above.

**Incest** is against the law. If the crime is by next of kin against a girl or boy under 16 years of age, this will be considered as aggravating circumstances.

**Buggery** is an illegal act punished by 10 years of imprisonment maximum. When the victim is under 14 years of age buggery is punishable even with the consent of the victim.

**Indecency** - any one preparing, encouraging, forcing a boy or a girl to involve in indecent acts would be punished by imprisonment.

#### **IV. Child prostitution**

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Encouraging a male or a female under 18 years of age to enter prostitution is punishable by 5 years of imprisonment maximum.

Forcing or enticing a male or a female less than 18 years of age into prostitution is punishable by imprisonment from 3 up to 10 years

#### **V. Child pornography**

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There is no distinction in the legislation.