

LESSON 2: RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Law & Citizenship Course • *Ghid practic de educație juridică - „Elevul și legea”* • Judecător Cristi Danileț



FREE BECAUSE OF RIGHTS



Rights protect dignity and equality.
Each person has freedoms — and
duties — that keep society fair and
safe for all.

LESSON CONTENTS

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RIGHTS AND AGE

How rights and duties change for minors and adults

PART 2

HOW RIGHTS APPEAR

Why every person has rights and how they are recognized by law

PART 3

RIGHTS & DUTIES

The link between freedom, responsibility, and legal obligations

PART 4

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Institutions and laws that protect minors and ensure equality

PART 5

REVIEW & PRACTICE

Quiz, key concepts and reflection tickets

LAW & CITIZENSHIP COURSE

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER

In this chapter, you'll learn **what rights are**, **where they come from**, and why they always **go together with responsibilities**. You'll see how rights **protect dignity and equality** — for adults, young people, and children — and **how every freedom has limits that keep others safe**. You'll understand the difference between **minors and adults**, how age changes your legal rights and duties, and what responsibility means in daily life. We'll explore why **laws exist to protect rights**, and how they ensure fairness for everyone. You'll also get to know the **institutions that defend children's rights** — such as **family courts**, **child protection agencies**, and **social services** — and how they help when a right is violated. By the end of this lesson, you'll be able to **explain how rights and duties depend on age and law**, and **why freedom needs responsibility**, and how **respecting others' rights protects your own**.

RIGHTS & AGE

WHY SOME RULES CHANGE AS WE GROW

In every democracy, **children and adults** have the same human dignity, but the law protects them in different ways. Children are still developing, so the state adds **extra protections** and limits some actions until they are mature. As responsibility grows, **more rights become active** (and duties grow too). In Romania, **criminal liability starts at age 14** — before that, a child cannot be punished like an adult. **By 18**, a person is fully responsible in the eyes of the law.



Warm-Up Activity



Write one responsibility that helps protect someone's right — e.g: listening, cleaning up, being honest, or respecting privacy. Why does it matter? Share your answer with a classmate.

Rights grow with age — protection grows too.

WHERE DO RIGHTS COME FROM?

In every society, people have rights simply because they are human — not because someone grants them. These rights **protect life**, **dignity**, and **freedom**. Laws recognize and guarantee them, so **they apply equally to all**. Rights **exist from birth**, but the way we use them depends on knowledge and respect for others' rights.

In Romania, rights are **written in the Constitution** and protected by courts and special institutions. When people **know their rights**, they can **defend themselves** — and help others do the same.



At Home & School

Respect privacy and speak up when something feels unfair. You have the right to learn safely, be listened to, and get credit for your work.



Why it matters

Knowing your rights builds confidence, improves fairness in class, and teaches justice from an early age.



Online & in the Community

Use your voice responsibly; share facts, not hate. You have the right to express ideas and to be treated with respect.



Why it protects

Digital rights mean freedom of expression without harm — they keep conversations safe, civil, and truthful.



Public Life

Everyone deserves safety and fair treatment. You have the right to access services fairly and to be heard by authorities.



Why it's fair

Equality opens opportunities for all, not just a few, and keeps power accountable.

Imagine and Reflect

Imagine a world where people don't know their rights. What problems could appear? How would people defend themselves? Write 2–3 sentences below.

RIGHTS & DUTIES

Expression



Freedom of Expression

- **Right** – share opinions, information, and ideas.
 - **Duty** – speak without insults, threats, or hate; check facts.
-

Privacy



Privacy & Personal Data

- **Right** – your messages, photos, and data are protected.
 - **Duty** – don't post or share others' info without consent.
-

Property



Property & Work

- **Right** – use your things and get credit for your work.
 - **Duty** – don't take, copy, or damage what isn't yours.
-

Equality



Equality & Non-Discrimination

- **Right** – equal treatment in school and public life.
 - **Duty** – respect everyone—no bullying, no hate speech.
-

Key terms



Mini-Glossary

- **Right** = a protected freedom or claim.
- **Duty/Responsibility** = what you must do so others' rights stay safe.
- **Rule of Law** = the same rules for everyone.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & PROTECTION

Children have the same human dignity as adults, but the law gives them **extra protection**. Children's rights are recognized by **the Constitution** and by **special laws**. Families, schools, social services, and the justice system must respect, protect, and help every child. When **a right is violated**, the state can step in to stop the harm and keep the child safe.



WHO IS A CHILD?

A child is anyone under 18. Minors grow into responsibility step-by-step; some rights activate gradually, while some limits keep them safe. The law treats children differently from adults to prevent harm and support healthy development.



YOUR CORE RIGHTS

The right to life and safety; identity and family; education; to be heard in decisions that affect you; privacy and your own image; to be protected from violence, neglect, exploitation, and trafficking.



WHEN RIGHTS ARE AT RISK

Abuse or neglect at home, bullying (including online), hate speech or discrimination, grooming or sexual exploitation, forced work, or any situation that makes a child feel unsafe or controlled. These are not the child's fault and must be stopped.



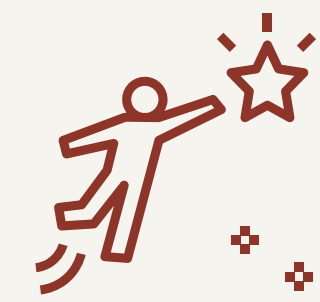
WHO PROTECTS YOU

Start with trusted adults (family, teacher, school counselor). Child-protection services and social workers can assess risk and provide support. Police and prosecutors stop crimes; courts can order protection, ensure care, and sanction offenders.

WHEN A RIGHT IS VIOLATED

Speak Up

Say clearly what happened, when, and who was involved. Add how it makes you feel and that you need help now.



Your voice matters

Tell a Trusted Adult

Go to a parent/relative, teacher, or school counselor. Ask them to stay with you and help report and stay safe.



Adults must act

Report It

Call child-protection services or the police. Share facts, not guesses. Reporting stops harm and starts support.



Official help

Keep Evidence

Save messages, screenshots, dates, and names. Write a short timeline so adults can act faster and protect you.



Proof helps

Protection & Follow-Up

You may get a safety plan, counseling, and legal measures. Ask what happens next and who to contact if things change.



Safety first

So what for me?

Asking for help is brave, not shameful.

No retaliation is allowed against a child who reports.

Your rights apply every day — at home, at school, and online.

Try it: In pairs, create a 3-step mini-plan for getting help (Who do you tell? How do you report? What proof do you keep?). Write one concrete example (home / school / online).

QUIZ — Lesson 2

Check what you've learned about how rights work, who has them, and how they connect to duties. Choose the best answer for each question.



- 1** Who helps defend children's rights in Romania?
 - a) Child Protection Directorate
 - b) The Constitutional Court
 - c) The School Inspectorate
- 2** A school rule seems unfair. What's the correct first step?
 - a) Ignore it quietly
 - b) Ask for clarification or help
 - c) Start an online petition to cancel it
- 3** Why can rights be limited during emergencies?
 - a) To protect public safety while keeping limits proportional
 - b) Because the government can suspend any right
 - c) To punish critics
- 4** Responsible online behavior means:
 - a) Sharing rumors "as a warning"
 - b) Using others' images or words only with credit or permission
 - c) Posting classmates' messages "for transparency"
- 5** Which statement about minors and adults is correct?
 - a) Minors have no rights
 - b) Most rights apply, but some are exercised through parents or guardians
 - c) Adults cannot be punished
- 6** At what age can criminal responsibility begin in Romania?
 - a) 13
 - b) 14
 - c) 15
- 7** "Legal capacity" means a person can:
 - a) Make decisions with legal effect
 - b) Vote at 16
 - c) Get a passport without consent
- 8** Which right belongs to everyone, not only citizens?
 - a) The right to vote
 - b) The right to life and dignity
 - c) The right to run for office
- 9** Which example shows protected free expression?
 - a) Publishing someone's private data
 - b) Criticizing public authorities
 - c) Encouraging violence
- 10** Which duty protects another person's privacy right?
 - a) Not posting private chats or photos
 - b) Paying bus fares
 - c) Avoiding junk food in class

QUIZ — Lesson 2

ANSWER KEY



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KEY CONCEPTS FROM LESSON 2



RIGHTS

Freedoms and protections every person has — they apply to everyone equally.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties that come with rights — respecting others and following the law.



LEGAL CAPACITY

The ability to make decisions and take responsibility for your actions under the law.



MINORS & ADULTS

Children have the same human dignity as adults but receive extra protection until they become fully responsible.



EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

Everyone is treated the same by the law, without discrimination.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The right to share ideas and opinions, as long as it doesn't harm or incite hate.



RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Protection of personal life, data, and communications from unwanted intrusion.



CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES (DGASPC)

Institutions that defend children's rights and offer help when a right is violated.



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Basic rights guaranteed by Romania's Constitution — such as life, dignity, education, and safety.