**Honduras**

**Information provided by DINAF**

Article 16 (Family Code) establishes that 21 is the minimum age for marriage**.** However the same article allows for **marriages at 18 years old**, with legal authorization. To regulate this frame (18-21 years) a**rticle 17** establishes the process to give this authorization.

Article 17 refers to the persons habilitated by the Family Code to give the authorization pointed out in article 16:

1. Father and mother jointly,or the one who has parental authority
2. Parental or maternal grandparents (in the absence of parents), preferably those who live with the minor
3. If the minor has been adopted, the adopted parents
4. Legal guardian
5. The competent judge when any of the persons responsible for authorizing it, has denied it without a justified cause and the minor is older than 18 years.

This authorization of marriage between (18-21) may however be denied according to the scenarios pointed out in article 18.

**Article 18:**

1. Legal inability
2. Serious danger to the health of the child
3. **Habitual drunkenness, consumption of drugs and narcotics of the person planning to get married with the minor**
4. **No economic independence of the couple planning to get married**

**Child, early** and **forced marriages is still a practice in the rural areas, and there is no registry, indicators, statistics, or systematized information. The DINAF has received some information about some cases, but these have not been registered to the mechanism available at the DINAF to report cases.**

**Some cases on rape, special rape have been reported through the Programme for the protection of the rights of the children.**

**Information provided by the Public Ministry**

**Honduras has a** Law against Traffickingin Persons (in this law, forced and servile **marriage** is considered a form of trafficking in person);

In addition, the legislation also contemplates the crime of special rape, which consist of having sexual relations with a minor (younger than 14 year-old). The penalty for the special rape is 15-20 years in prison.