

Article 31 of Law no. 23/2007, of July 4, which approves the legal regime for the entry, stay, exit and removal of foreigners from national territory (in its current wording):

Article 31 - Entry and exit of minors

1 — Without prejudice to forms of tourism or youth exchange, the competent authority must refuse entry into the country to foreign citizens under the age of 18 when unaccompanied by the person exercising parental responsibility, or when there is no one in Portuguese territory, duly authorized by their legal representative, to take responsibility for their stay.

2 — Unless duly justified exceptional cases, a foreign minor will not be allowed to enter Portuguese territory when the holder of parental responsibilities, or the person to whom they are entrusted, is not admitted into the country.

3 — If the foreign minor is not admitted to Portuguese territory, the person to whom the minor has been entrusted must also be refused entry.

4 — Foreign minors who travel unaccompanied by the person exercising parental responsibility and do not have legally certified authorization from that person will not be allowed to leave Portuguese territory.

5 — Unaccompanied minors awaiting a decision on their admission to national territory or their repatriation shall be granted all the material support and assistance necessary to meet their basic needs for food, hygiene, housing, and medical care.

6 — Unaccompanied minors may only be returned to their country of origin or to a third country willing to receive them if it is guaranteed that adequate reception and assistance will be provided on their arrival.