The **Decree for the Reasonable Restriction of Underage Sorcery** was a bylaw of the [British Ministry of Magic](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/British_Ministry_of_Magic), written in [1875](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/1875),[[1]](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Decree_for_the_Reasonable_Restriction_of_Underage_Sorcery#cite_note-1) which banned the use of [underage magic](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Underage_magic) outside of school.

The Decree was enforced by the [Improper Use of Magic Office](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Improper_Use_of_Magic_Office) in the Ministry of Magic. The restriction was for [wizards and witches](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Wizardkind) who were under the age of seventeen, upon which the [Trace](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Trace) still operated. Even so, the Ministry did recognise that they might have to use magic in certain situations such as self-defence in a life-threatening situation.

In addition, young children below school age, or children who were not in possession of a wand, were mostly exempt from the rule since they usually had little or no control over the magic they performed. Overall, it appeared that the Ministry of Magic generally limited enforcement of the decree to situations where underage wizards performed magic in front of [Muggles](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Non-magic_people).