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**CIVIL CODE - CIV**

**DIVISION 3. OBLIGATIONS [1427 - 3273.69]** ( *Heading of Division 3 amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 160, Sec. 14. )*

**PART 2. CONTRACTS [1549 - 1701]** ( *Part 2 enacted 1872. )*

**TITLE 1. NATURE OF A CONTRACT [1549 - 1615]** ( *Title 1 enacted 1872. )*

**CHAPTER 2. Parties [1556 - 1559]** ( *Chapter 2 enacted 1872. )*

[1556.](#) All persons are capable of contracting, except minors, persons of unsound mind, and persons deprived of civil rights.  
(*Enacted 1872.*)

[1557.](#) (a) The capacity of a minor to contract is governed by Division 11 (commencing with Section 6500) of the Family Code.  
(b) The capacity of a person of unsound mind to contract is governed by Part 1 (commencing with Section 38) of Division 1.  
(*Repealed and added by Stats. 1992, Ch. 163, Sec. 9. Effective January 1, 1993. Operative January 1, 1994, by Sec. 161 of Ch. 163.*)

[1558.](#) It is essential to the validity of a contract, not only that the parties should exist, but that it should be possible to identify them.  
(*Enacted 1872.*)

[1559.](#) A contract, made expressly for the benefit of a third person, may be enforced by him at any time before the parties thereto rescind it.  
(*Enacted 1872.*)