

Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 Concerning Child Rights "Wadeema's Law"

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And Federal Law No. (1) of 1972, concerning the Competencies of Ministries and the Powers of Ministers, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (11) of 1972, concerning Compulsory Education,

And Federal Law No. (17) of 1972, concerning Nationality and Passports, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (9) of 1976, concerning Juvenile Delinquents and Vagrants,

And Federal Law No. (8) of 1980, concerning the Regulation of Labor Relations, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (5) of 1983, concerning Nurseries,

And Federal Law No. (5) of 1985, issuing the Civil Transactions Law, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 issuing the Penal Code, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (35) of 1992, issuing the Criminal Procedures Law, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (43) of 1992, concerning the Regulation of Penal Institutions,

And Federal Law No. (14) of 1995, concerning Combating Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (21) of 1995, concerning Traffic, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (3) of 1996, concerning the jurisdiction of Sharia Courts to hear certain crimes,

And Federal Law No. (2) of 2001, concerning Social Security,

And Federal Law No. (28) of 2001, concerning the establishment of the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (7) of 2002, concerning Copyright and Neighboring Rights, and its amendments,

And Federal Decree-Law No. (1) of 2003, establishing the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood,

And Federal Decree-Law No. (3) of 2003, concerning the Regulation of the Telecommunications Sector, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (28) of 2005, concerning Personal Status,

And Federal Law No. (29) of 2006, concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (51) of 2006, concerning Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, and its amendments,

And Federal Decree-Law No. (11) of 2008, concerning Human Resources in the Federal Government, and its amendments,

And Federal Law No. (15) of 2009, concerning Tobacco Control,

And Federal Law No. (18) of 2009, concerning the Registration of Births and Deaths,

And Federal Law No. (1) of 2012, concerning the Care of Children of Unknown Parentage,

And Federal Decree-Law No. (5) of 2012, concerning Combating Cybercrimes,

And Federal Decree-Law No. (5) of 2013, concerning Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives and Military Equipment,

And based on what was presented by the Minister of Social Affairs, and the approval of the Cabinet and the Federal National Council, and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

We have issued the following Law:

Chapter One

General Provisions

Article (1)

Related Judicial Rulings

Definitions

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to each, unless the context otherwise requires:

The State: The United Arab Emirates.

The Ministry: The Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Minister: The Minister of Social Affairs.

Competent Authorities: Federal authorities concerned with child affairs.

Concerned Bodies: Local authorities concerned with child affairs.

Child: Every human being born alive who has not yet reached eighteen years of age.

Child's Custodian: The person legally responsible for the child or entrusted with his care.

Foster Family: The alternative family entrusted with the custody and care of the child.

Child Protection Specialist: The person licensed and assigned by the competent authority or concerned bodies - as the case may be - to preserve the rights of the child and protect him within the limits of his competencies as stated in this Law.

Child Abuse: Any act or omission that would lead to harm to the child, preventing his sound, safe, and healthy upbringing and development.

Child Neglect: The failure of the parents or the child's custodian to take the necessary measures to preserve the child's life and physical, psychological, mental, and moral safety from danger, and to protect his various rights.

Violence against the Child: The intentional use of force against any child by any individual or group that leads to actual harm to the child's health, development, or survival.

The Best Interests of the Child: Making the child's interest paramount and giving it priority and preference in all circumstances, regardless of the interests of other parties.

Child Pornography: The production, display, publication, possession, or circulation of an image, film, or drawing through any means of communication, social networking sites, or any other means, in which a child appears in a disgraceful situation in a sexual act or a realistic, real, imaginary, or simulated sexual performance.

Article (2)

Related Judicial Rulings

This text is in accordance with the latest amendment under Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024 - To view the original text

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall work to secure the rights of the child and protect his best interests by developing the necessary policies and programs that would achieve the following:

1. Preserving the child's right to life, survival, and development, and providing all necessary opportunities to facilitate this and to enjoy a dignified and safe life.
2. Securing the child's right to social care, and protecting him from violence, neglect, exploitation, and abuse.
3. Instilling human values in the child and promoting a culture of human fraternity in him.
4. Raising awareness and empowering the family to perform its primary role in raising and nurturing the child with good morals, educating, guiding, and counseling him, and providing him with the necessary care to ensure natural growth in the best way.
5. Ensuring the commitment of the child's parents or custodian to their responsibilities towards him, preserving his rights, protecting him from harm and neglect, and guiding and educating him about the danger of committing crimes, especially electronic crimes or being exploited through them.

6. Educating the child and informing him of his rights in a language and style that is easy for him to understand, especially regarding his protection from harm and neglect through appropriate means.
7. Involving the child in areas of community life according to his age, maturity, and abilities, so that he grows up with the qualities of love for work, initiative, legitimate earning, and self-reliance.
8. Securing the rights established for the child in this Law in a manner that does not conflict with public order or public morals.

Article (3)

This Law guarantees the child's enjoyment of all rights established by it and other legislations in force in the State and his protection without discrimination based on his origin, sex, nationality, religious belief, social status, or disability.

Article (4)

1. The natural family is the best primary environment for the child's upbringing, and the State guarantees its existence, preservation, protection, and care in a way that achieves the child's rights and best interests, to be replaced when necessary by an alternative family.
2. The protection of the child and his best interests shall have priority in all decisions and measures taken concerning him, and the competent authorities and concerned bodies shall work to achieve this by taking the necessary measures, including:
 - a- Ensuring that the child's literary, psychological, and physical needs are met under the special circumstances of his age, health, and family environment, especially his right to custody.
 - b- Giving the child priority for protection, care, relief, and guidance in cases of emergency, disasters, armed conflicts, and from any crime committed against him.
 - c- Not causing psychological harm to the child in all stages of evidence collection, investigation, and trial, whether he is a party to the case or a witness in it.

Article (5)

The child has the right to respect for his privacy in accordance with public order and morals, taking into account the rights and responsibilities of his custodian according to the law.

Article (6)

The concerned and responsible bodies shall implement the policies and programs developed by the competent authorities in all fields related to the child.

Chapter Two

Fundamental Rights

Article (7)

1. The child has the right to life and security of his person.
2. The State shall ensure the child's growth, development, and care in accordance with the law.

Article (8)

The child has the right, from birth, to a name that is not degrading, insulting to his dignity, or contrary to religious beliefs and custom.

Article (9)

The child shall be registered immediately after birth in the birth register in accordance with the legal system established in this regard.

Article (10)

Related Judicial Rulings

The child has the right to a nationality in accordance with the provisions of the laws in force in the State.

Article (11)

Related Judicial Rulings

1. The child has the right to filiation to his legitimate parents in accordance with the laws in force in the State.
2. Both parents of the child, or whoever has legal authority over him, are obligated to obtain the documents that prove his birth, nationality, and all other identification documents related to him in accordance with the laws in force in the State.

Article (12)

1. The child has the right to express his views freely according to his age and maturity, and in a manner consistent with public order, public morals, and the laws in force in the State.
2. He shall be given the necessary opportunity to express his views on measures taken concerning him within the limits of the applicable laws.

Article (13)

Related Judicial Rulings

It is prohibited to subject the child to any arbitrary or illegal interference in his life, family, home, or correspondence, and it is also prohibited to attack his honor or reputation. The State shall ensure the protection of the child from all forms of child pornography in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Article (14)

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall work on the following:

1. Prohibiting the employment of children before they reach the age of fifteen.
2. Prohibiting economic exploitation and employment in any work that exposes children to danger, whether by its nature or the circumstances in which it is performed.

The Executive Regulations of the Law and the Labor Law shall regulate the conditions and rules for the employment of children.

Chapter Three

Family Rights

Article (15)

Related Judicial Rulings

1. The child's parents, those in their stead, and the child's custodian are obligated to provide the requirements of family security for the child in the care of a cohesive and supportive family.
2. The child's custodian is obligated to bear the responsibilities and duties assigned to him in raising, caring for, guiding, advising, and developing the child in the best way.

Article (16)

Related Judicial Rulings

Subject to the applicable laws, the child has the right to know his parents and his natural family, receive their care, and maintain personal relations and direct contact with both of them.

Article (17)

The child has the right to custody, breastfeeding, maintenance, and the protection of his person, honor, religion, and property in accordance with the laws in force in the State.

Chapter Four

Health Rights

Article (18)

The child has the right to receive health services in accordance with the healthcare laws and regulations in force in the State.

Article (19)

The State shall work to develop its capabilities in the field of preventive and curative health care, psychological care, and health guidance related to the child's health, nutrition, and protection.

Article (20)

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall work to provide health care to mothers before and after childbirth in accordance with the applicable legislation.

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall also take possible measures for the following:

1. Protecting the child from the dangers and damages of environmental pollution and working to combat them.
2. Playing a constructive and effective role in awareness in the field of prevention and health guidance, especially with regard to child health, nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, prevention of diseases and accidents, and the harms of smoking, and developing the necessary policies and programs to advance health media in this regard.
3. The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall take the necessary measures to prevent and protect children from the use of narcotic, intoxicating, and stimulant substances, and all types of mind-altering substances, or from participating in their production, trafficking, or promotion.
4. Supporting the school health system to play its role in the field of prevention, treatment, and health guidance.
5. Prevention of infectious, dangerous, and chronic diseases and providing the necessary vaccinations and immunizations.
6. Developing programs for training workers in the child and maternal health sector and preparing them to achieve the objectives of this Law.
7. Providing psychological care that includes the child's mental, emotional, social, and linguistic development.
8. Taking the necessary measures for the early detection of children to diagnose cases of disability and chronic diseases.

Article (21)

The following acts are prohibited:

1. Selling or attempting to sell tobacco or its products to a child, and the seller has the right to ask the buyer to provide proof of being eighteen years of age.
2. Smoking in public and private transportation and enclosed spaces in the presence of a child.
3. Selling or attempting to sell alcoholic beverages to a child, and any other substances that pose a danger to his health, which are to be determined by a decision issued by the Cabinet.
4. Importing or trading materials that violate the approved specifications in the State for food, supplies, nutritional or health supplements or hormones, or children's toys.

Chapter Five

Social Rights

Article (22)

The State shall work to provide a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, psychological, and social development in accordance with the applicable laws.

Article (23)

Children who do not have a capable breadwinner or source of income have the right to receive assistance from the State in accordance with the applicable laws.

Article (24)

Subject to the laws of Personal Status and Children of Unknown Parentage, a child deprived of his natural family environment permanently or temporarily has the right to alternative care through:

1. A foster family.

2. Public or private social welfare institutions if a foster family is not available.

Chapter Six

Cultural Rights

Article (25)

The child has the right to possess knowledge and the means of innovation and creativity, and for this purpose, he has the right to participate in recreational, cultural, artistic, and scientific programs that are consistent with his age and with public order and public morals, and the competent authorities and concerned bodies shall develop the necessary programs for this.

Article (26)

It is prohibited to publish, display, circulate, possess, or produce any visual, audio, or printed works or games intended for children that appeal to the child's sexual instincts or promote behaviors that violate public order and public morals, or that would encourage deviant behavior.

Article (27)

This text is in accordance with the latest amendment under Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024 - To view the original text

It is prohibited to bring or facilitate the entry of children into places specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law, and it is also prohibited to bring them in or facilitate their entry in violation of the controls specified by the Executive Regulations for entry into some other places.

Article (28)

Managers of movie theaters, television broadcasting channels, and other similar places referred to in the preceding Article must announce, in a prominent and visible place, that entry or viewing is prohibited for children in accordance with the provisions of the Executive Regulations of this Law and other applicable regulations.

Article (29)

Telecommunications companies and providers of electronic information network services must report to the competent authorities or concerned bodies any child pornography materials being circulated via websites and the electronic information network, in addition to providing the necessary information and data about the persons, entities, or sites that circulate these materials or deliberately lure children.

Article (30)

The State shall work to establish councils, associations, clubs, and centers for children, specializing in the development of cultural, artistic, scientific, physical, and other aspects for children.

Chapter Seven

Educational Rights

Article (31)

Every child has the right to education, and the State shall work to achieve equal opportunities for all children in accordance with the applicable laws.

Article (32)

In the field of education, the State shall take the following measures:

1. Preventing children from dropping out of schools.
2. Enhancing the participation of children and their parents in decisions related to children.
3. Prohibiting all forms of violence in educational institutions and preserving the child's dignity when making decisions or developing programs.
4. Developing the education system, including kindergartens, to achieve its goals of developing every child in the mental, physical, emotional, social, and moral fields.
5. Establishing specific and organized programs for reporting and complaining to ensure investigation into acts and violations contrary

to the educational rights stated in this Law, as specified by the Executive Regulations.

Chapter Eight

The Right to Protection

Article (33)

Related Judicial Rulings

In particular, what threatens the child or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental safety and requires his right to protection is considered to be the following:

1. The loss of the child's parents and his remaining without a breadwinner or guardian.
2. The child's exposure to rejection, neglect, and homelessness.
3. Clear and continuous dereliction in upbringing and care.
4. Habitual abuse of the child.
5. The child's exposure to sexual exploitation or abuse.
6. The child's exploitation by illegal organizations and in organized crime, such as implanting ideas of intolerance and hatred or inciting him to commit acts of violence and terror.
7. Exposing the child to begging or economic exploitation.
8. The inability of the parents or the child's custodian to care for or raise him.
9. The child's exposure to kidnapping, sale, or trafficking for any purpose or his exploitation in any form.
10. The child's suffering from a mental or psychological disability that affects his ability to perceive.

Article (34)

It is prohibited to endanger the child's mental, psychological, physical, or moral safety, whether by his custodian abandoning him, leaving him in a place or care institution without cause, refusing to accept the child from his custodian, or refraining from treating him and attending to his affairs.

Article (35)

Related Judicial Rulings

It is prohibited for the child's custodian to subject him to rejection, homelessness, or neglect, or to habitually leave him without supervision or follow-up, or to abandon his guidance and direction, or to fail to attend to his affairs, or not to enroll him in an educational institution, or to leave him in a state of dropping out of education without cause during the compulsory education stage.

Article (36)

Related Judicial Rulings

This text is in accordance with the latest amendment under Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024 - To view the original text

It is prohibited to subject the child to torture, assault his physical safety, or commit any act that would affect the child's emotional, psychological, mental, or moral safety.

Article (37)

The following acts are prohibited:

1. Using or exploiting a child in filming, recording, or producing pornographic materials.
2. Producing, publishing, distributing, or facilitating children's access to pornographic materials by any means.
3. Possessing child pornography materials regardless of the intent to distribute.
4. Downloading, uploading, or sending child pornography materials via the electronic information network or through any other means of communication or information technology.
5. The contribution of the child's custodian to the child's participation in the production or filming of child pornography materials or any other sexual acts, or allowing him to do so, or assisting him in any of these acts.

6. Sexually exploiting the child by exposing or preparing him for acts of prostitution or debauchery, whether for a fee or without, and directly or indirectly.

Article (38)

The following are prohibited:

1. Exploiting a child in begging.
2. Employing a child in circumstances contrary to the law.
3. Assigning a child to work that obstructs his education or harms his health or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental safety.

Chapter Nine

Protection Mechanisms

Article (39)

1. The competent authorities and concerned bodies, in coordination with the Ministry, shall work to establish child protection units aimed at developing and implementing the child protection mechanisms and measures stipulated in this Law.
2. The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the following:
 - a. The competencies of the child protection units and their working mechanisms.
 - b. The conditions required for a child protection specialist.

Article (40)

The child protection specialist shall take the legal oath before commencing his duties and shall be competent in the following:

1. Preventive intervention in all cases where it is found that the child's health and physical, psychological, moral, or mental safety are threatened or endangered.
2. Therapeutic intervention in all cases of assault, exploitation, neglect, and all cases stipulated in Article (33) of this Law.

Article (41)

When performing his duties, the child protection specialist shall have the following powers:

1. Collecting evidence about the facts of the report and attending investigation and trial sessions if necessary.
2. Entering, alone or accompanied by whomever he deems necessary, any place where the child is, with the permission of its owner, and must show a card proving his identity.
3. Taking appropriate preventive measures regarding the child, as specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.
4. Using social research to arrive at an assessment of the true situation of the child.

Article (42)

1. Every person has the right to report to the child protection specialist or child protection units if there is a threat to the child's safety or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental health.
2. Reporting is mandatory for educators, doctors, social specialists, or others entrusted with the protection, care, or education of children.

Article (43)

Every person who has reached the age of majority must assist any child who asks him to report to the competent authorities or concerned bodies about his suffering or the suffering of any of his siblings or any other child in one of the cases specified in Article (33) of this Law.

Article (44)

The identity of the person who made the report may not be disclosed except with his consent, and it is prohibited to disclose the identity of all parties to the incident and witnesses in cases of assault on a child or his abuse when using the information in analyses or media reports or publishing anything that could lead to the identification of his personality.

Article (45)

The concerned and competent bodies must provide protection to witnesses at all stages of the criminal case.

Chapter Ten

Protection Measures

Article (46)

Subject to the provisions of Articles (47) and (51) of this Law, the child protection specialist, in agreement with the child's custodian, shall take the necessary measures if there is a threat to the child's safety or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental health, as specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (47)

Subject to the provision of Article (51) of this Law, the child protection specialist shall present the following proposals to the child's parents or his custodian if it is proven that there is a threat to the child's safety or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental health:

1. Keeping the child with his family, provided that:
 - a- The child's parents or his custodian commit in writing to take the necessary measures to remove the danger threatening the child and to keep him under periodic supervision by the child protection specialist.
 - b- The methods of social intervention by the concerned bodies and competent authorities - as the case may be - are organized by providing the necessary social services and assistance to the child and his family.
 - c- The necessary precautions are taken to prevent any contact between the child and what threatens his safety or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental health.
2. Placing the child temporarily with an alternative family or a suitable social, educational, or health institution, whether public or private, in accordance with the controls specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (48)

If the child protection specialist reaches appropriate consensual measures, that agreement shall be recorded, read out, and signed by the various parties, including the child who has reached the age of thirteen.

The specialist shall periodically follow up on the results of the consensual measures taken and shall decide, when necessary, to amend them to ensure - as much as possible - keeping the child in his family environment.

Article (49)

The child protection specialist must notify the child's parents or his custodian and the child who has reached the age of thirteen of their right to refuse the proposed measure.

Article (50)

1. The child protection specialist must refer the matter to the authority he reports to, to take the appropriate action in the following two cases:

- a. Failure to reach an agreement within fifteen days from the date he became aware of the case.
- b. The agreement is breached by the child's parents, his custodian, or by the child who has reached the age of thirteen.

2. The authority to which the child protection specialist reports must take the necessary steps to refer the matter to the Public Prosecution.

Article (50) bis

Added by Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024

1. If the act attributed to the child's parents, or one of them, or his custodian constitutes a violation of Article (27) or any of the Articles from (34) to (38) of this Law, or a breach of the agreement stipulated in Article (48) of this Law, the Public Prosecution, after consulting the opinion of the child protection specialist or at the request of the authority he reports to, may order that the violator be subjected to one or more rehabilitation and guidance programs.

2. An appeal against the Public Prosecution's order shall be made to the competent court within (15) fifteen days from the date of its notification. The court shall decide on the matter expeditiously, and its decision shall not be subject to appeal in any way.

3. The Public Prosecution shall order the termination of the program if it finds that the person subject to the program has complied, based on a report issued by the center stating that it is likely he will not commit any act in the future that constitutes a violation of the provisions of Article (27) or any of the provisions of Articles (34) to (38) of this Law.

Article (51)

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles (33), (34), (35), (36), (37), and (38), any act or omission that threatens the child's life, safety, or his physical, psychological, moral, or mental health in a way that cannot be remedied over time is considered a serious harm or an imminent danger.

2. Subject to the sanctity of dwelling places, in the event of serious harm to the child or the existence of an imminent danger to him, and before obtaining a judicial order, the child protection specialist shall remove him from the place where he is and place him in a safe place under his personal responsibility, and may seek the assistance of the public authorities for this purpose.

3. The child protection specialist must obtain a judicial order for the continuation of the measures stipulated in Clause (2) of this Article within (24) hours from the time of the child's removal, and the competent judge shall issue his decision within (24) hours of the request being presented.

Article (52)

The child protection specialists, who are designated by a decision from the Minister of Justice in agreement with the Minister or the concerned bodies, shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers in proving violations of the provisions of this Law and the regulations and decisions issued in its implementation.

Article (53)

The Public Prosecution and judicial bodies shall seek the assistance of the child protection specialist in investigations and trials in which a child is present.

Article (54)

Related Judicial Rulings

1. It is prohibited for anyone convicted of a crime of sexual assault or a crime of child pornography to work in a job or occupation that puts him in direct contact with children or causes him to mix with them, even if he is rehabilitated.
2. The judge shall rule that anyone convicted of a crime of sexual assault on a child be prohibited from residing in the area where the assaulted child lives, within a radius of five square kilometers surrounding the child's place of residence.
3. In all cases, a person sentenced to imprisonment or jail for a crime of sexual assault on a child shall not be released until he has been subjected, before the end of his imprisonment or jail term, to psychological examinations and tests to ensure that he does not pose a social danger. If this is proven, the court shall order his placement in a therapeutic shelter after the end of his imprisonment or jail term. The Executive Regulations of this Law shall regulate the placement of the convicted person in a therapeutic shelter and the procedures for considering release requests.

Article (55)

A register shall be established at the Ministry, in coordination with the competent authorities, in which all cases of child abuse shall be recorded. Everything recorded in this register is confidential and may not be accessed except with permission from the Public Prosecution or the competent court, as the case may be.

Article (56)

The competent authorities and concerned bodies, in coordination with the Ministry, shall:

1. Specify the special engineering standards and specifications, building codes, and safety and security requirements that protect the child from any kind of harm. The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the necessary controls for the application of these standards and specifications and the exceptions thereto.
2. Establish the necessary controls and procedures to protect the child's safety in public and recreational places and public transportation. The Executive Regulations shall specify these required controls and procedures.
3. The provisions of Clauses (1 and 2) of this Article shall apply to both the public and private sectors, except for what is specifically exempted in the Executive Regulations.

Article (57)

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall take the following measures:

1. Ensuring product safety so as not to threaten the child's rights mentioned in this Law and establishing controls for marketing advertisements that are consistent with the child's right to health, survival, and development.
2. Monitoring commercial activities to ensure that children are not exposed to any environmental risks or harm.

Article (58)

The competent authorities and concerned bodies shall work to ensure the protection of the child from the dangers of traffic accidents in accordance with the provisions of the Traffic Law and its amending laws, especially the following:

1. Prohibiting children under the age of ten from sitting in the front seats of all types of vehicles.
2. Establishing controls regarding the use of recreational bicycles by children.

Article (59)

Subject to the provisions of the Personal Status Law, the competent court, before ruling on custody, must request a detailed report on the social, psychological, and health status and the criminal record of the person seeking custody or the one to whom custody will be granted, or a declaration stating that he has not committed a crime outside the State. The Executive Regulations shall specify the procedures for preparing this report and declaration.

Chapter Eleven

Penalties

Article (60)

Whoever violates the provisions of Clause (2) of Article (11), or Articles (28), (34), Article (35), or Clause (2) of Article (42) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment or a fine of not less than (5,000) five thousand AED.

Article (61)

A fine of not less than (5,000) five thousand AED and not more than (50,000) fifty thousand AED shall be imposed on whoever:

1. Violates the provision of Article (43) of this Law.
2. Prevents a child protection specialist from performing his duties or obstructs him from carrying out his work.
3. Provides false information or deliberately conceals the truth about the child's situation.

Article (62)

Whoever violates any provision of Clause (2) of Article (21) of this Law shall be punished by a fine of not less than (5,000) five thousand AED.

Article (63)

Whoever violates any provision of Clauses (1, 3) of Article (21) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than three

months and a fine of not less than (15,000) fifteen thousand AED, or one of these two penalties.

Article (64)

Whoever violates any provision of Clause (4) of Article (21) or Article (29) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than six months and a fine of not less than (100,000) one hundred thousand AED and not more than (1,000,000) one million AED, or one of these two penalties.

Article (65)

Related Judicial Rulings

Whoever violates any provision of Clauses (1, 2, 5, 6) of Article (37) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than ten years.

Article (66)

Whoever violates any provision of Article (26), or Clauses (3, 4) of Article (37) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and a fine of not less than (100,000) one hundred thousand AED and not more than (400,000) four hundred thousand AED, or one of these two penalties.

Article (67)

Whoever violates any provision of Article (27) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not exceeding six months, and a fine of not less than five thousand (5,000) AED.

Article (68)

Whoever violates any provision of Article (14) or the provision of Article (38) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine of not less than (20,000) twenty thousand AED, or one of these two penalties.

If the work poses a danger to the life of a child under the age of fifteen or his physical, mental, or moral safety, this shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

Article (69)

Related Judicial Rulings

This text is in accordance with the latest amendment under Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024 - To view the original text

1. Whoever violates the provision of Article (36) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than one year and a fine of not less than (50,000) fifty thousand AED and not more than (100,000) one hundred thousand AED, or one of these two penalties.

2. If the act is attributed to the child's parents, or one of them, or his custodian, the court, instead of imposing the penalty prescribed in Clause (1) of this Article, may order, for a period it specifies, the imposition of one or more of the following measures:

- a. Performing one of the community service works.
- b. Placement in a therapeutic shelter.
- c. Subjecting to one or more rehabilitation and guidance programs.
- d. Suspending guardianship over the child, taking into account the provisions of the applicable laws regarding guardianship of the person.

If the court orders the suspension of guardianship, it shall refer the matter to the court competent in personal status affairs to appoint a guardian for the child in accordance with the legislation in force in the State.

3. The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the mechanism for implementing rehabilitation and guidance programs, including the conditions for rehabilitation and guidance centers and the mechanism for evaluating the status of the person subject to the program and the extent of his commitment to it.

Article (69) bis

Added by Federal Decree-Law No. (33) of 2024

Whoever refuses to undergo the rehabilitation and guidance program stipulated in Article (50) bis of this Law or fails to comply with it, as specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of not less than (3) three months and a fine of not less than (10,000) ten thousand AED and not more than (100,000) one hundred thousand AED, or one of these two penalties.

Article (70)

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the offender's claim of not knowing the victim's age shall not be considered.

Article (71)

The penalties stipulated in this Law shall not prejudice any more severe penalty provided for in any other law.

Chapter Twelve

Concluding Provisions

Article (72)

The provisions of this Law shall not prejudice any rights and aspects of protection that ensure the child enjoys a better way of all public rights and freedoms and the aspects of protection and care stipulated in other applicable legislation.

Article (73)

The Cabinet, upon the proposal of the Minister, shall issue the Executive Regulations of this Law within six months from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (74)

Any provision that violates or contradicts the provisions of this Law is hereby repealed.

Article (75)

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force three months after the date of its publication.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi:

Corresponding to: March 8, 2016 AD

Note on Name Change:

The name "Ministry of Social Affairs" was replaced by the name "Ministry of Community Development" by virtue of Cabinet Resolution No. (7) of 2016.

Article nine of Federal Decree-Law No. (14) of 2016 also stipulated that the name "Ministry of Social Affairs" shall be replaced by the name "Ministry of Community Development" wherever it appears in any federal legislation.