



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Law of Protection from Abuse

Royal Decree No. M/52
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Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Law of Protection from Abuse

Article 1

In this Law, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Affairs.
- **Minister:** Minister of Social Affairs.
- **Law:** Law of Protection from Abuse.
- **Regulations:** Implementing Regulations of this Law.
- **Abuse:** Any form of exploitation; physical, psychological, or sexual mistreatment, or the threat thereof committed by an individual against another exceeding the limits of the powers and responsibilities derived from guardianship, dependency, sponsorship, trusteeship, or livelihood relationships. The term "abuse" shall include the omission or negligence of an individual in the performance of his duties or responsibilities in providing basic needs for a family member or an individual for whom he is legally responsible.

Article 2

This Law aims to:

1. ensure protection from all forms of abuse;
2. provide assistance, treatment, and shelter as well as social, psychological, and health care;
3. take necessary legal procedures to hold the violator accountable and punish him;
4. raise the society's awareness of the concept of abuse and its implications;
5. address undesirable social behavior that indicates the existence of an environment that promotes the occurrence of abuse; and
6. adopt scientifically based procedures to deal with abuse.

Article 3

1. Anyone who becomes aware of a case of abuse must report it immediately.
2. Without prejudice to the procedures set in other relevant laws, any public servant, civilian or military, as well as any employee in the private sector who becomes aware of a case of abuse, by virtue of his work, must immediately report such case to his employer, who in turn must immediately report it to the Ministry or the police. The Regulations shall specify reporting procedures.

Article 4

1. The Ministry and the police shall receive reports of abuse cases from victims,



government entities; including relevant law enforcement agencies and health authorities, private entities, or witnesses.

2. If the police receives a report of a case of abuse, it shall take necessary procedures falling under its jurisdiction, and shall immediately refer the report to the Ministry.

Article 5

1. The identity of a person reporting a case of abuse may not be disclosed except with his consent, or in cases provided for in the Implementing Regulations. Ministry employees and those who become aware of cases of abuse, by virtue of their employment, shall maintain the confidentiality of such information.
2. Public servants, civilian or military, as well as private sector employees, who violate any of the provisions relating to reporting cases of abuse stipulated in this Law, shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with legally prescribed procedures.

Article 6

An individual reporting a case of abuse shall be exempted from liability if it is established that such case is not a case of abuse, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 7

The Ministry shall immediately, upon receipt of a case of abuse and upon ascertaining the report and assessing the case, take any of the following measures:

1. Take necessary measures which ensure the provision of necessary health care to victims of abuse, and perform a medical evaluation of the case, if needed.
2. Take necessary measures to prevent the continuation or recurrence of abuse.
3. Provide family and social counseling to the parties involved if the Ministry decides to address the case within the confines of the family.
4. Summon any of the parties to the case, any relatives thereof, or any person involved to take their statements. Necessary measures and undertakings shall be taken to ensure the necessary protection of victims of abuse.
5. Subject the parties of an abuse case to psychological treatment or rehabilitation programs, as appropriate.

Article 8

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 7 of this Law, the Ministry shall, if it appears from the report that the case is serious or poses a threat to the life, safety, or health of the victim of abuse; take all necessary measures to deal



with such case based on its degree of seriousness, including notifying the governor or the relevant law enforcement agencies to take necessary measures, each within their respective jurisdictions, and coordinate with said authorities to ensure the safety of the victim of abuse including his transfer or the transfer of the aggressor - if necessary- to a proper place until the danger has passed.

Article 9

If the Ministry finds that dealing with a case of abuse requires urgent intervention or access to the place where the incident of abuse has occurred, it may seek the assistance of the competent law enforcement agencies. Said agencies shall immediately respond to the request, according to the nature of each case and its degree of seriousness.

Article 10

The Ministry shall take into account - when dealing with any case of abuse - the degree, type, and frequency of violence, provided that any of the means used in treatment do not result in greater harm to the victim, or adversely affect his family or livelihood. In dealing with abuse cases, priority shall be given to preventive and counseling measures, unless the case requires otherwise.

Article 11

If the Ministry deems that the abuse incident constitutes a crime, it shall notify the competent detecting and recording authority to take necessary legal action.

Article 12

The Ministry shall follow up on cases of abuse that it refers to the competent detecting and recording authority, in accordance with Article 11 of this Law. Said authority shall notify the Ministry of actions taken regarding each case.

Article 13

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty prescribed under Sharia or law, a person who commits an act that constitutes a crime of abuse as specified in Article 1 of this Law shall be subject to imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not more than one year and a fine of not less than 5,000 and not more than 50,000 riyals, or to either punishment. In case of recidivism, the punishment shall be doubled and the competent court may issue an alternative punishment for freedom-depriving punishments.

Article 14

Provisions and procedures provided for in this Law shall not prejudice the obligations of other competent authorities, each within their jurisdictions, nor shall they prejudice any more favorable right of protection from abuse stipulated in another law or international convention to which the Kingdom is party.



Article 15

The Ministry shall take, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, all appropriate preventive measures for the protection from abuse. To this end, it may, without limitation, do the following:

1. Raise awareness of the concept of abuse, its seriousness, and adverse effects on an individual's personality as well as the stability and solidarity of the community.
2. Take necessary action to address undesirable social behavior conducive to creating an environment that promotes the occurrence of abuse.
3. Provide authenticated statistical data on abuse cases to be utilized in devising treatment mechanisms and the conduct of scientific research and studies.
4. Promote awareness and educational programs that aim to curb abuse through media and other means.
5. Organize specialized training programs for all persons involved in dealing with abuse cases, including judges, detecting and recording officers, investigation officers, physicians, specialists, and others.
6. Raise the awareness of members of the community, particularly segments most vulnerable to abuse, of their rights under Sharia or law.
7. Intensify family counseling programs.
8. Support and conduct scientific research and studies relating to protection from abuse.

Article 16

The Minister shall issue the Regulations within 90 days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette. Said Regulations shall enter into force as of the date the Law enters into force.

Article 17

This Law shall enter into force 90 days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.