



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Penal Code for Forgery Offenses

Royal Decree No. M/11
December 21, 2013

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.



Penal Code for Forgery Offenses

Chapter 1: Definitions and Types of Forgery

First: Definitions

Article 1

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

1. **Forgery:** Any change made deliberately and in bad faith using one of the methods stipulated in this Code to an instrument, seal, mark, or stamp protected by the law, if such change results in physical, moral, or social damage to any natural or corporate person.
2. **Seal:** A tool used to stamp documents for authentication or the imprint made thereby.
3. **Stamp:** An adhesive label, or a similar label produced electronically or printed, that is affixed to an object and is used for purposes of postage or revenue collection.
4. **Mark:** A sign or symbol used by a public entity to convey a certain meaning specifically associated thereto that entails a legal effect, regardless of the type or shape thereof.
5. **Document:** Any document that includes letters or marks conveying a specific meaning, regardless of the form in which it is written or kept, including information technologies.
6. **Bank Papers:** Documents used by banks for deposit, withdrawal, or transfer from their treasuries or accounts, or from a customer's account, including letters of credit, letters of guarantee, credit cards, and debit cards.
7. **Historical Document:** An old and rare document that includes facts and information about the Kingdom's history, and has a historical value but no legal authority.



Second: Types of Forgery

Article 2

Any of the following shall constitute forgery:

- a) Producing a document, seal, mark, or stamp that is counterfeit, adulterated, or has no original.
- b) Including in any document a seal, signature, fingerprint, mark, or stamp that is counterfeit, adulterated, or has no original.
- c) Including in any document a valid signature or fingerprint obtained through deception.
- d) Changing or altering any document, seal, mark, or stamp, whether by means of addition, deletion, or substitution, or the partial destruction of a document resulting in a change to its content.
- e) Changing a personal photo in a document or replacing the same with a photo of another person.
- f) Including in a document a false incident implying it is true or knowingly omitting an incident from a document that should be otherwise included.
- g) Falsifying the acknowledgment of concerned parties for which a document is executed.
- h) Misusing a blank signature entrusted thereto.

Chapter 2: Forgery of Seals and Marks

Article 3

Any person who forges the Seal of the State, the King, the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister or any of his deputies, or the seals of the Royal Court or the Court of the Crown Prince, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from three years to ten years and a fine not exceeding 1000,000 riyals.

Article 4

Any person who forges the seal or mark of a public entity or any of its ex officio members, or forges a legally authentic seal or mark in the Kingdom belonging to a public international law entity or any of its ex officio members, shall be punished by



imprisonment for a term ranging from one year to seven years and a fine not exceeding 700,000 riyals.

Article 5

Any person who forges the seal of a nonpublic entity shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding 300,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Chapter 3: Forgery of Stamps

Article 6

Any person who forges a stamp shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding 500,000 riyals, and shall be obligated to compensate the public treasury for lost revenues resulting from such forgery.

Article 7

Any person who re-uses a stamp whose value has already been collected shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding 30,000 riyals, or by either penalty, and shall be obligated to compensate the public treasury for lost revenues resulting from such re-use.

Chapter 4: Forgery of Documents

First: Ordinary Forgery

Article 8

Any person who forges a document attributed to a public entity or any of its ex officio members, or to a public international law entity or any of its ex officio members, if the document has a legal authority in the Kingdom, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from one year to five years and a fine not exceeding 500,000 riyals.



Article 9

Any person who forges a non-official document shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding 300,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Second: Aggravated Forgery

Article 10

Any person who forges a document attributed to the King, the Crown Prince, or the Prime Minister or any of his deputies shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from three years to ten years and a fine not exceeding 1000,000 riyals.

Article 11

Any person who forges bonds or instruments of value issued by the public treasury shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from two years to seven years and a fine not exceeding 1000,000 riyals, and shall be obligated to compensate the public treasury for lost revenues resulting from such forgery.

Article 12

Any public servant who forges a document within his power shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from one year to seven years and a fine not exceeding 700,000 riyals.

Article 13

Any person who forges commercial or financial papers, bank instruments, or insurance policies shall be punished by imprisonment for a term ranging from one year to five years and a fine not exceeding 400,000 riyals.

Third: Mitigated Forgery

Article 14

Any person who, within his power, forges or knowingly issues a false medical report or certificate shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding 100,000 riyals, or by either penalty.



Article 15

Any person who, in his official capacity, forges examination answer papers or grade records shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding 60,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 16

Any person who forges a staff attendance record shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding 30,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Fourth: Other Forms of Forgery

Article 17

Any person who knowingly uses an expired judicial ruling or order, or an expired power of attorney issued by a competent authority, with the intent of giving a false impression that it is still valid, and such use results in establishing or forfeiting a right or causing damage to others, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding 100,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 18

Any person who forges a historical document shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding eight months and a fine not exceeding 80,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Chapter 5: General Provisions

Article 19

Any person who knowingly uses a forged document stipulated in this Code, or brings into the Kingdom or possesses any forged document stipulated in Articles 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13, shall be punished by the same penalty prescribed for forgery offenses in this Code.



Article 20

An attempt to commit any of the offenses set forth in this Code shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding half of the maximum penalty prescribed for such offense.

Article 21

Any person who participates – by means of agreement, incitement, or assistance – in committing any of the offenses set forth in this Code shall be punished by the same penalty prescribed therefor.

Article 22

The competent court shall, upon conviction for any of the offenses set forth in this Code, order the confiscation of all seized items used therein and all proceeds generated therefrom, without prejudice to bona fide third parties.

Article 23

Any private entity operating in the Kingdom, whose manager or one of its employees is proved to have committed any of the offenses stipulated in this Code in favor of the entity and with its knowledge, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding 10,000,000 riyals, and shall be banned from contracting with any public entity for a period of two to five years, without prejudice to any penalty provided for in this Code against a natural person who commits the offense.

Article 24

The competent court may stay the execution of any consequential penalty resulting from the conviction of offenses stipulated in Articles 7, 14, 15, and 16 in this Code.

Article 25

The competent court shall exempt from the penalty of forgery prescribed in this Code any offender who reports the offense prior to its discovery and prior to using the forged materials.

The competent court may also exempt an offender from the penalty after the discovery of the offense if he discloses the identity of other perpetrators and facilitates their apprehension.



Article 26

The provisions of this Code shall apply to all perpetrators who commit any of the offenses stipulated in Articles 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, and 13 of this Code outside the Kingdom, unless it is established that a foreign judgment was issued exonerating him or convicting him for the same offense and that he served his sentence.

Article 27

Except for offenses stipulated in Articles 3 and 10, criminal suit in offenses stipulated in this Code shall lapse after 10 years from the day following the day the offense is committed.

Article 28

Except for Articles 14, 15, and 16, a judgment may be issued allowing the publication of the penalty prescribed for offenses stipulated in this Code.

Article 29

This Code shall supersede the Anti-Forgery Law, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 114 dated 26/11/1380H, and any other conflicting provisions.

Article 30

This Code shall become effective 30 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.