

Federal Law No. 29 of 2006
In Respect of
The Rights of People with Special Needs

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

Upon reviewing the constitution,

The federal law No. 1 of 1972 in respect of the competences of ministries and powers of ministers and the laws amending it ,

The federal law No. 11 of 1972 in respect of the mandatory education,

The federal law No. 12 of 1972 in respect of regulating the clubs and associations operating in the field of the youth welfare,

The federal law No. 4 of 1976 in respect of establishing and organizing the United Arab Emirates University and the laws amending it,

The federal law No. 9 of 1976 in respect of the delinquent and the homeless juvenile,

The federal law No. 8 of 1980 in respect of regulating the work relationships, and the laws amending it,

The penal law promulgated under the federal law No. 3 of 1987 and the laws amending it,

The law of penal procedures promulgated under the federal law No. 35 of 1992 and the laws amending it,

The law of pensions and social insurances promulgated under the federal law No. 7 of 1999 and the laws amending it,

The federal law No. 21 of 1995 in respect of traffic and driving,

The federal law No. 25 of 1999 in respect of the general authority of Youth and Sports.

And pursuant to the proposal of the minister of the social affairs, the approval of the council of ministers, and the endorsement of the supreme federal council,

We have promulgated the following law:

Section One
General Provisions
Article (1)

Definitions:

In the implementation of the provisions of the present law, the following words and expressions mentioned therein shall have the meanings shown opposite each of them , unless otherwise is required by the context:

- The State:** The United Arab Emirates
- The Ministry:** The Ministry of Social Affairs
- The Minister:** The Minister of Social Affairs
- The Concerned Authorities:** The federal and local authorities concerned with the implementation of the provisions hereof.
- A Person with Special Needs:** Every person suffering from a temporary / permanent, full /partial deficiency or infirmity in his physical, sensational, mental, communicational, educational or psychological faculties to an extent decreasing the possibility of satisfying his ordinary requirements in the conditions of people without special needs.
- The Card:** The personal card granted by the ministry to the person with special needs which is considered as an official document indicating that its holder is a person with special needs. This card guarantees for its holder the rights and services shown herein, and in the bylaws and decisions issued in implementation hereof.

The Distinction:

Any discrimination, exclusion or restriction due to special needs which cause damaging or denying recognition of any rights prescribed under the legislations applicable in the state, enjoying them or practicing the same equally.

Article (2)

This law aims to guarantee the rights of the person with special needs and to provide all the services within the bounds of his abilities and capacities. The special needs may not be a reason to hinder the person with special needs from obtaining such rights and services especially in the field of welfare and social, economic, health, educational, professional, cultural and promotional services.

Article (3)

The state guarantees for the person with special needs the equality with people without special needs and non-discrimination due to special needs in all the legislations. It also guarantees to observe the same in all the policies and programs of economic and social development, and to take the appropriate procedures to prohibit the discrimination based on the special needs.

Article (4)

The ministry, in coordination with the concerned authorities, prepares programs to educate the person with special needs, his/ her family and local environment in all what concerns the rights provided for under this law and the other legislations, as well as the services provided for him.

Article (5)

Any judgment, standard or practice based on a lawful basis shall not be considered as a discrimination. The state guarantees to take all the necessary procedures to enable the person with special needs to enjoy his rights and liberties, and prohibit any infringement upon him or depriving him of them abusively.

Article (6)

The state guarantees the legal assistance for the person with special needs in all cases where his liberties are restricted for any legal reason. Upon issuing any decision restricting the freedom of a person with special needs, the following should be taken:

1. Treating him humanely, taking into account his condition and his needs as a person with special needs.
2. To provide the necessary information and data which are connected to the reasons of restricting his freedom.
3. To provide the appropriate assistance in case he is unable to pay the legal fees, expenses or fines, as stipulated under a resolution issued by the council of ministers.

Article 7

The state guarantees for the person with special needs to practice his right of expression and giving the opinion by using Braille, the language of sign and the other methods of communication, and his right in requesting, receiving and transmitting the information equally with others.

Article 8

The law guarantees for the person with special needs the necessary protection of his correspondences, medical records and personal matters. The executive bylaw of this law determines the regulations and mechanisms of the said protection.

Article 9

The ministry shall – in cooperation with the competent authorities- establish centers, establishments and institutions for taking care of and training the people with special needs and qualifying them. Such centers, establishments and institutions shall undertake the following tasks:

- A. To qualify the people with special needs to adapt themselves and integrate in the community.
- B. To provide the special education for people with special needs.
- C. To provide the professional training programs for the people with special needs.
- D. To train the families of people with special needs how to deal with them.

Section Two
Rights of People with Special Needs
Chapter One: Health and Rehabilitation Services
Article 10

Each UAE national person with special needs has the right to benefit from the health and rehabilitation services and the support services at the expense of the State, including:

- A. All surgeries whether resulting from a special need or not such as transplantation, treatment of ulcers, the anaplasty, the treatment in specialized centers... etc whether for intensive or normal treatments. This includes providing all the equipment and materials ...etc , and all the requirements for the success of the operation, whether permanent or temporary.
- B. To provide the medical examination and treatment at: general practitioners, specialists, consultants, dentists, the psychological evaluation, the audiography, radiography, lab tests, and medicines.
- C. Rehabilitation and Specialized Treatments: The internal and external, including : the physiotherapy, work therapy, phoniatics, treatment of hearing and the psychotherapy.

- D. The technical aids and the assisting equipment such as the mobile and fixed replacement equipment (limbs, audiphones, artificial oculus etc) corrective forms, movement aids (wheelchairs, walking sticks, canes and crutches), and for the prevention from ulcers and all the drugs used in the surgeries.

Article 11

Under a resolution by the council of ministers, a committee named “**The Specialized Committee For Health And Rehabilitation Services For People With Special Needs**” shall be established. Such committee shall be chaired by the undersecretary of the ministry of health with members representing the concerned authorities. The minister of health shall set forth the committee work system and meetings.

The committee shall specifically carry out the following functions:

1. Providing the diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services and developing the existing health programs and services to improve the conditions of the people with special needs.
2. Establishing the programs of early detection, diagnostics, raising awareness and health education, and providing the means of early and specialized intervention in the area of special needs.
3. Providing human cadres specialized in the field of different kinds of special needs and train and rehabilitate them.
4. Preparing the national studies to identify the reasons leading to the special needs, their consequences and the ways of prevention, and circulating such studies among the concerned authorities in the State.
5. Submitting periodic reports to the minister preparing the ground to present the same to the council of ministers to take the appropriate actions in this concern.

Chapter Two: Education

Article 12

The State guarantees for the person with special needs equal chances in education in all the educational and pedagogical institutions, the vocational qualification, teaching of adults, the continuous teaching in the regular classes or in special classes; if necessary, with providing the curriculum in the language of sign or Braille and any other methods as necessary.

The special needs do not constitute intrinsically an obstacle hindering from applying to enroll, join or enter any educational institution whether governmental or private.

Article (13)

The ministry of education and the ministry of higher education and scientific research shall take the appropriate procedures in cooperation with the concerned authorities to provide the pedagogical diagnosis, the curriculum, and the simplified means and techniques for the purposes of teaching. Moreover, it endeavors to provide alternative methods to communicate with people with special needs, and to establish alternative strategies for learning, and simplified material environment and other means necessary to guarantee the full participation of students with special needs.

Article 14

The ministry of education and the ministry of higher education and scientific research should – in cooperation with the concerned authorities- provide the academic specialties to prepare the employees working with people with special needs and their families whether in the areas of diagnosis, early discovery, the educational, social, psychological, medical or professional rehabilitation, and guarantee providing the training programs during the service to provide the employees with the modern knowledge and expertise.

Article 15

Under a resolution issued by the council of ministers, a committee named “**The Committee Specialized In The Education Of People With Special Needs**”. Such committee shall be chaired by the undersecretary of the

ministry of education, with members representing the concerned authorities. The minister of the education shall set forth the work system and meetings of the committee.

The committee shall specifically carry out the following functions:

1. Setting forth the executive programs to guarantee equal chances in the education for people with special needs since the early childhood in all the educational institutions in their regular classes or in the specialized educational units.
2. Developing the methodological structure of the educational programs and preparing the pedagogical plans which are in line with the contemporary time and the technical development and which are consistent with the growth and psychological features of people with special needs.
3. Organizing all the matters related to the education of the people with special needs such as the programs, procedures, methods and conditions of joining the regular classes and sit for examinations.
4. Laying down policies of rehabilitating and training the educational and teaching human cadres working in the area of people with special needs.
5. Providing advice and technological, technical and educational assistance to all the educational institutions which would like to receive people with special needs, and studying the financing requests related to the equipment and techniques and qualifying the educational institution environment.
6. Submitting periodic reports to the minister preparing the ground to present the same to the council of ministers to take the appropriate actions in this concern.

Chapter Three: Work

Article (16)

The UAE national person with special needs enjoys the right to work and occupy the public positions, for which the special needs , in themselves , do not constitute an obstacle hindering from applying and being selected for jobs. Special needs shall be taken into account upon undergoing the tests of competency to have the job for people concerned with the provisions of this law.

Article 17

The ministry may enter into contracts with other entities to execute projects for rehabilitation of people with special needs. The minister shall determine the terms, conditions and regulations necessary for that.

Article (18)

The legislations issued inside the country show the procedures to be taken to guarantee the person with special needs holding positions in the governmental and private sectors, the working hours, the vacations and the other terms related to the work of people with special needs, including the necessary regulations to terminate the services and the entitlement to the end of service benefits or the retirement pension.

The council of ministers determines –based on the minister’s proposal- the percentage of the jobs to be allocated for the people with special needs in both governmental and private sectors.

Article (19)

Under a resolution by the council of ministers, a committee named “**The Specialized Committee For The Employment Of The Person with Special Needs**”. Such committee shall be chaired by the undersecretary of the ministry, with members representing the concerned authorities. The minister shall set forth the committee work system and its meetings.

The committee shall specifically carry out the following functions :

1. To lay down the policies necessary for the employment of the person with special needs and the requirements to realize the optimal competence along with guaranteeing the continuity of the employment for the longest possible period.
2. To encourage and support people with special needs who are qualified to establish projects with economic profitability and feasibility, and to provide the information about the available donations and facilitated loans and how to obtain the same.
3. To provide the information about the labor market, the available vacancies and its prospective.
4. To prepare studies about the occupations and jobs in a manner consistent with the technological developments and the labor market needs.
5. To encourage and orient the private sector to train, qualify and employ people with special needs and to provide the appropriate support within the bounds of the available resources.
6. To propose the necessary procedures to protect people with special needs from all kinds of exploitation at the work.
7. To submit periodic reports to the minister preparing the ground to present the same to the council of ministers to take the appropriate actions in this concern.

Chapter Four: General and Cultural Life and Sports

Article (20)

The State shall take the necessary procedures to make the person with special needs participate in the cultural, sporting and entertainment life as follows:

1. To develop the creative, artistic and intellectual abilities of the person with special needs and to invest the same in order to enrich the community.
2. To provide the literary and cultural materials for the person with special needs in all available forms, including the electronic texts, the language of sign, the Braille, and in audio and multimedia formats etc.
3. To enable the person with special needs to benefit from the media programs and means, theatrical shows and all the cultural activities, and to enhance his participation therein, with the fees exemption rules.
4. To enhance the participation of the person with special needs in the sports activities organized on the national, regional and international levels.
5. To submit periodic reports to the minister preparing the ground to present the same to the council of ministers to take the appropriate actions in this concern.

Article 21

Under a resolution by the council of ministers, a committee named **”The Committee Specialized In Sports, Culture And Recreation For People With Special Needs”** shall be formed . Such a committee shall be chaired by the secretary general of the youth and sports authority with members representing the concerned authorities, The minister shall set forth the committee work system and its meetings.

The committee shall specifically carry out the following functions :

1. To lay down the policies which guarantee the integral development of the person with special needs and providing the opportunity to practice the sporting , cultural and recreational activities which are characterized with fun , safety and consistency with his abilities, and to provide the appropriate conditions to practice them basically like his peers having no special needs.

2. To expand the base of practicing the sporting, cultural and recreational activities among people with special needs and to ensure that the sport of people with special needs whether “ sport for people with mental special needs or people with physical and sensational special needs” is contained within the educational programs of the specialized institutions.
3. To set programs to prepare the human cadres qualified to work with people with special needs in the sporting, cultural and recreational fields.
4. To encourage integrating people with special needs with their healthy peers in the sporting and cultural centers, sporting clubs and camps and to provide the appropriate games and activities for them.
5. To submit periodic reports to the minister preparing the ground to present the same to the council of ministers to take the appropriate actions in this concern.

Chapter Five: The Qualified Environment

Article 22

Each person with special needs has the right to be in a qualified environment, and to reach the place where the others can reach.

Article 23

The concerned authorities shall – in coordination with each other- determine the engineering standards and specifications of the facilities and public utilities for which a resolution shall be issued by the council of ministers based on the proposal of the minister. Such resolution shall determine the necessary regulations to apply these standards and specifications and the exclusions mentioned in respect thereof. All this in relation to fitting the facilities to be used by the person with special needs, his need and the requirements of his safety and avoiding any harm against him.

The provisions of this resolution shall apply to both governmental and private sectors, except those excluded under a certain provision therein.

Article 24

The council of ministers shall issue the regulation and conditions to obtain a governmental house by the UAE national person with special needs, as well as the specifications of the house, the rules to own it and the other rules regulating the governmental house affairs.

Article 25

1. The necessary technical specifications should be observed in the roads, public vehicles, land, air and maritime means of transport in order to be used by the person with special needs.
2. Under a resolution, the council of ministers shall determine the requirements of obtaining a driving license by the person with special needs, and the regulations thereof. A new category concerning the people with special needs shall be added to the driving license categories mentioned in the traffic and driving law. The necessary description shall be mentioned therein as per the type of special needs.

Article 26

Each insurance company shall insure the vehicles owned by the person with special needs whenever he requests the same.

Section Three EXEMPTIONS

Article 27

The vehicle allocated for the use of the person with special needs shall be exempted from all taxes and fees, based on a handicap certificate issued by the ministry. This exemption may not be given for another vehicle unless after the elapse of five years from the previous exemption or the damage of the vehicle. In case of disposing of the vehicle during that period, the prescribed fees and taxes shall be paid.

Article 28

The vehicles of the people with special needs shall be exempted from the prescribed Car Parking fees .

Article 29

The means of transport of the associations and centers of people with special needs specified by the council of ministers shall be exempted from the licensing fees.

Article (30)

The council of ministers shall specify the associations and the centers of people with special needs which shall be exempted from the fees imposed on the applications for building permits submitted by them for the construction of buildings for their use, based on a certificate issued by the ministry in this regard.

Article 31

The cases filed by people with special needs related to the implementation of the provisions hereof shall be exempted from the legal fees.

Article 32

All the correspondences of the person with special needs or the associations or centers of people with special needs specified by the council of ministers shall be exempted from the post fees and charges, including the books, newspapers and magazinesetc.

Section Four

PENALTIES

Article 33

Without prejudice to the any strictest punishment provided for under any other law, everyone using the card of the person with special needs without a

legal requirement shall be punished by fining him an amount not less than One Thousand Dirhams and not exceeding Five Thousand Dirhams, without prejudice to the civil responsibility whenever necessary. Such punishment shall be multiplied in case of repetition.

Section Five
FINAL PROVISIONS
Article 34

The ministry shall approve the logos of the people with special needs and circulate them to the authorities supervising the utilities or those which publish booklets and printed materials and prepare programs containing such logos.

Article 35

The person with special needs shall not be required to show any evidence of his special need except for the card issued by the ministry in this regard. The conditions to obtain such card shall be determined under a resolution issued by the minister.

Article 36

The ministry shall license the nongovernmental institutions which take care of educating, training and rehabilitating the people with special needs. No natural or corporate person may establish any of such institutions unless a license is obtained from the ministry.

The conditions, regulations and fees of licensing such institutions in addition to their obligations and the penalties imposed on them in case of violations as well as the other provisions regulating their business shall be determined by a resolution by the council of ministers.

Article 37

The minister shall issue the necessary bylaws and decisions to implement the provisions hereof.

Article 38

All the provisions contradictory to or in conflict with the provisions hereof shall be cancelled.

Article 39

This law shall be published in the official gazette and shall be applicable effective from date of its publication.

Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

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