

**Federal Law No (6) for 1973**  
**Concerning Immigration and Residence**  
**As amended**  
**By virtue of law 7 of 1985,**  
**Law 13 of 1996**  
**And Federal Decree- Law No. 17 of 2017**

Prepared by Legal Affairs Law

(\*) Amending Articles

(\*\*) Adding Articles

**Federal Law No (6) for 1973**  
**Concerning Immigration and Residence**  
**Part One Entry of Foreigners**

**Article (1)**

Pursuant to this law a foreigner shall be any one who is not a national of the United Arab Emirates.

**Article (2) \***

1- No foreigner may enter the country without the following:

- A- Entry and exit through the approved ports in accordance with the regulations specified by the executive regulation of this law.
- B- Possession of a valid and approved passport authorizing the holder to return to the country of origin or the substitute of the approved documents.
- C- Obtaining a valid visa or entry permit, and this condition shall be exempted for the nationals of the countries that issue a Decree by the Cabinet.

2- The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship or his authorized representative may in case of necessity exclude all or some of the above conditions in accordance with the provisions of the executive regulations of this law.

**Article (3) \***

- No foreigner may enter or leave the country except through the points specified by a Decree of the Cabinet upon a recommendation from the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship and after the approval of the competent employee on the passport or the travel document.

- Foreigners shall also adhere to the provisions of the laws and regulations applicable in the points of exit and entry.

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Article (2,2) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding entry and residence of foreigners

#### **Article (4)**

Captains of vessels, airplanes and drivers of cars and other means of transport, shall when arriving into the country or leaving it present to the officer in charge a manifest containing names and particulars of the crews of vessels, airplanes or vehicles and their passengers. They have to inform the authorities concerned with the names of those who do not have passports and those whom they have doubts about the authenticity or non-validity of their passports, and they shall have to prevent such passengers from leaving vessel, airplane or vehicle or any other means of transport or getting on board.

#### **Part Two**

#### **Entry Visas & Permissions**

#### **Article (5) \***

1- Entry permissions and visas shall be issued, renewed and cancelled in accordance with the provisions of this law, and the rules and instructions issued by the Cabinet.

2- The Cabinet may issue the regulations and conditions for entry visas and the duration of stay in the State for the category of investors, owners of specialized talents and researchers in the different fields of science and knowledge, in addition to the talented students with promising scientific abilities, distinguished in sports and other categories that it sees.

#### **Article (6) \***

A- The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship is responsible for issuing, renewing and revoking the country's entry permits and visas.

B- Embassies and consular bodies representing the State abroad may issue permits and visas, in accordance with the regulations specified by the executive regulations of this law.

#### **Article (7)**

The Immigration authorities in the international airports of any member emirate in the UAE may in accordance with rules set by the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship grant foreigners entry the country visas for ninety-six (96) hours as per the following conditions:

A- The foreigner should have a passport or a travel document, valid for entry into the Country and for the country of destination.

B- He should have ticket to continue his trip.

C- He should leave the country within ninety six (96) hours from the time of obtaining the visa.

**Article (8) Cancelled**

**Article (9) Cancelled**

**Article (10) Cancelled**

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(\* Article (5) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners

(\*\*\*) Article (8 – 9 - 10) of the Federal Law No. 6 of 1973 concerning the entry and residence of foreigners under Federal Decree No. 17 of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

### **Article (11)**

The foreigner who obtains a visit visa may not work anywhere in the country with or without pay or for his own. If the visa is issued to work for an individuals or an establishment, holder may not work for another individual or establishment without the written consent of that individual or establishment and the approval of the Directorate of Nationality and Immigration.

### **Article (12)**

- Any foreigner entering the Country with visit visa or permission shall have to leave the Country on the expiry date of such visa or permission either through cancellation or expiry period thereof - unless he has obtained a residence license.

- Any foreigner who is exempted from the requirement of obtaining a permit or visa in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 2 of this law must leave the country within a period not exceeding thirty days as of the date of entry into the country unless he obtains a permit to stay during this period.

## **Part Three**

### **Notification of Competent Authorities**

#### **Article (13) \***

Each foreigner shall register his basic data in accordance with the mechanism and controls specified in the executive regulations of this law. The contracting party shall bear the same obligation. Therefore, when there is a change in such data or in the event of a dispute between it and the employer, it shall apply the same procedure within the period specified by the executive regulations of this law.

#### **Article (14)**

- Managers of hotels and alike, shall inform the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship or the police station to whom they belong, about foreigners whom they lodge or who leave their hotels during forty-eight (48) hours from the date of entering or leaving. - Any person who lodges or accommodates a foreigner shall inform about his name and address during forty-eight (48) hours from the entry or leaving of that foreigner.

- Persons mentioned in the two Articles above, shall inform about foreigners who are with them on the date on which this law enters into force, within two weeks of that date.

### **Article (15)**

Foreigners, during their stay in the country, shall present passport or the document which acts as passport, if so requested, and shall answer all enquiries and give information. They shall, if so requested, to present themselves to the directorate of Nationality and Immigration or police stations on the date prescribed to them. In case of lost or damage of passport, they have to inform the mentioned department within three days of the date of loss or damage.

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(\*) Article (13) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

### **Article (16)**

Anyone who employs a foreigner shall submit to the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship or the police station in his place of work, a declaration on the prescribed form within forty-eight (48) hours of the date on which the foreigner joins his service. He shall also submit a declaration to the mentioned department or police station within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the foreigner's service.

### **Article (16 bis / 1) \*\***

If the notification in the cases provided for in Articles (13, 14, 15, 16) of this law comes to the concerned police headquarters, it shall inform the Federal Authority of Identity and Citizenship within twenty-four hours maximum of the contents of such notification and the declarations and statements submitted to it as the case may be.

## **Chapter Four**

### **Foreigners Residence**

### **Article (17) \***

The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship shall have the authority to issue a residence permit for the foreigner and shall be determined and canceled in accordance with the regulations and conditions specified by the executive regulations of this law.

### **Article (18)**

A foreigner who enters the country for visit purposes may not be given residence license except for a serious reason.

In such case, validity period of residence license shall not exceed the necessary period of its purpose.

### **Article (19)**

Foreigners who have obtained residence license shall be subject to the provisions of Article (11) herein. They must leave the country upon the revocation of his residence permit or the expiration of his term.

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\*\* Article (16 bis 1) was added by Federal Decree No. 17 of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

\* Article (17) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.



## **Chapter Five**

### **Control Power**

#### **Article (20)**

Without prejudice to any regulations or resolutions issued by the Cabinet, The Minister of Interior, for purposes connected with public interest, may cancel at any time, any visa or entry permission or residence license prior to its expiry date.

The Minister may limit himself to the procedure provided for in the preceding paragraph, in the case of violation of the provisions of this law or of the resolutions or regulations issued in implementation thereof, except for violation of the provisions of Articles (32) and (34).

#### **Article (21)**

- Any foreigner whose visa or residence permit has been revoked or whose residency has expired upon the expiry of the period of the authorization, visa or residence permit, and has not renewed it - in the cases where it may be - within thirty days from the expiry date, (A) a fine of not more than (100) hundred dirhams for every of illegal residence in the State as of the date of expiry of the time limit.

- For the foreign born, the period provided for in this Article shall be four months as of the date of birth, and upon its Decree without confirmation of residence, the guardian shall pay the prescribed fine. The Minister or his delegate may decide to waive all or some of the fines prescribed in this Article.

- If the fine is not paid, the violator shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or by a fine not exceeding four thousand dirhams and the court may order his deportation.

#### **Article (22)**

Local security authorities in member Emirates and federal security authorities, each within its frame of concern, shall stop and search any vessel, if these authorities suspect that this vessel may carry persons who have committed crimes punishable under the provisions of this law, or attempting to commit such crimes. The authorities may arrest these persons and request the vessel to enter the nearest port in the country.

## **Chapter six**

### **Foreigners Deportation**

#### **Article (23) \***

The Federal Public Prosecutor or his authorized representative of other entities, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship or the person delegated by the Director General of the Authority may order the deportation of the foreigner, even if he has an entry permit, visa or residence permit if such deportation is required by the public interest, public security, public morals or public health or have no apparent means of living.

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(\*) Article (23) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

#### **Article (24)**

Order of deportation issued for a foreigner may include the members of his family, who are depending on him in their living.

#### **Article (25)**

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship or his authorized persons or the general managers of the authority may detain the foreigner, against whom a deportation order has been issued, after the approval of the Federal Attorney General for a period not exceeding (30) thirty days, which may be extended for a similar period if such arrest is necessary to carry out the deportation order.

#### **Article (26)**

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship may order that the deportation expenses of a foreigner and his family shall be incurred by the foreigner himself if he has money or on the account of the person who gives him work in violation to the provisions of Law; otherwise the Ministry shall bear the deportation or exit expenses.

#### **Article (27)**

If a foreigner against whom a deportation order has been issued has interests in the country that need to be settled, he shall be granted a grace period after providing a trusteeship. Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship shall determine the period, which shall not exceed three months.

#### **Article (28)**

A foreigner who has been deported may not return to the country except with special permission from the Minister of Interior.

#### **Article (29)**

Subject to the provisions of Article (21) of this Law, the foreigner shall be expelled from the State by order of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship if he does not have a residence permit or the period of the permit has expired or has been canceled. The State may not be re-authorized for entrance unless it complies with the conditions and procedures required for its entry in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

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(\* Article (25) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Punishments**

#### **Article (30)**

If a foreigner comes to the country by any means of transportation by breaching the provisions of Article (2) and Article (7) of this law, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs may order his deportation and may order the captain of the transportation means by which he comes or a captain of any other means belonging to the same owner to take that foreigner out of the country. The owner of the transportation means shall bear the transportation expenses.

Any captain of any transportation means who refuses to carry out an order issued to him in accordance with the precedent Article may be punished by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dirham.

#### **Article (31) \***

Any foreigner arrested in the territory of the State after illegally infiltrating or entering the State shall be liable to imprisonment.

The same penalty shall also be imposed on any foreigner who abandons the work in violation of the provisions of this law.

In all cases, the court may order the expulsion of the foreigner from the State and the confiscation of the funds obtained by the foreigner from any activity carried out during that period.

#### **Article (32) \***

The commander of any means of transport shall be punished by provisional imprisonment if he enters, exits or attempts to make a foreigner enter or get out of the State in violation of the provisions of the law.

In all cases, the court shall confiscate the means of committing the crime without prejudice to the rights of others who have good intentions, and the court shall order the deportation of the foreigner.

### **Article (33)**

Any person who gives a false statement in order to evade the provisions of this law shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine of not less than (AED 5000) five thousand dirhams and not exceeding (AED 10,000) ten thousand dirhams or one of these two penalties.

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(\*) Articles (31 & 32) were amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

### **Article (34)**

Anyone who has forged a visa, an entry permit, a permit or a card to reside in the country, or any official document issued on the basis of these visas or permits, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not more than ten years for the purpose of evading the provisions of this law. Any person who uses any forged document referred to in this Article shall be punished with the same penalty knowing that he is falsified. The court shall order the deportation of the foreigner from the state.

### **Article (34) bis (1) \***

A fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirhams shall be imposed on any person who has used foreigners who is not under his sponsorship without complying with the terms and conditions prescribed for the transfer of sponsorship or without obtaining the necessary permit.

The penalty shall be imprisonment and a fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirham in case of return to the same act.

The sponsor shall be punished with the same penalty stipulated in the two preceding paragraphs of this section if he does not employ the sponsored person or let him works for others without following the legal procedures prescribed for such act.

1- A fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirham shall be imposed on anyone who has used or accommodated a foreigner in violation of the provisions of this law. The penalty shall be imprisonment and a fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirham in case of return to the same act.

Any person who has brought a foreigner under the provisions of this law and has not employed him or let the same works for third parties without following the prescribed legal procedures shall be punished by the same penalty provided for in the preceding paragraph of this Article. In all cases, the fine shall be enumerated by the number of violators.

2- Any person who has taken a foreigner in accordance with the provisions of this Law shall be exempted from punishment if he is notified of the foreigner's leaving to work in accordance with the provisions of the executive regulations of this law. In this case, he shall be compensated by the amount of (AED10,000) ten thousand dirhams, which is deducted from the amount of the fine ordered. The value of a foreigner air ticket shall be deducted from the fine amount.

- 3- A penalty of not less than two months' imprisonment and a fine of (AED 100,000) one hundred thousand dirhams shall be imposed on anyone who uses infiltrator or accommodated the same.
- 4- The fine shall be enumerated by the number of violators who are hired or accommodated to a maximum of (5,000,000) five million dirhams.
- 5- Without prejudice to the penalties mentioned in the preceding clauses if it is proved that a farm, estate or part thereof is to be used to house violating or escaping workers, the court shall decide to demolish or remove that part of the premises.
- 6- The court shall in all cases order to deport the violating foreigner, and shall also deport the foreigner who hired or accommodate the same when return to the same act.
- 7- The owner of the farm or the estate shall be exempted from the prescribed penalty if it is proved that the same is unaware of the fact of crime committed.
- 8- The crimes provided for in this Article shall be excluded from the application of the provisions of the mitigating circumstances provided for in the said Penal Law.
- 9- Establishing controls to resolve the situation of violators of the provisions of this law and organizing the cases of exemption may be made by virtue of a Decree of the Cabinet, based on a recommendation from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship.

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(\* Article (34 bis 1) was amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

### **Article (34) bis (2)**

A violation of the provisions of Article (22) of this Law shall be punishable by imprisonment for a period exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding (10,000) ten thousand Dirhams or one of these two penalties. The Court shall order the deportation of the violator from the State.

### **Article (34) bis (3) \*\***

Any person who exploits, assists, participates in or facilitates by any means having a visa or an entry permit in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which he has committed in contravention of the provisions of this Law and its Executive Regulations shall be liable to a penalty of imprisonment or a fine not less than (10,000) thousand dirhams. The punishment shall be enumerated by the number of the violators and the court must order the deportation of the foreigner.

### **Article (14) bis (4) \*\***

A fine of not less than (50,000) fifty thousand dirhams shall be imposed on any legal person whose representatives, managers, agents or employees contributed to the commission of any of the crimes provided for in this law for his or her account.

The court may judge to the closure of the place of the activity for a period not exceeding six months. The fine shall be enumerated by the number of the violations.

### **Article (35)**

Except for punishments, prescribed for the crimes stated in this chapter, any person who violates the provisions of this law or regulations or orders issued for its implementation shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dirham or either of these two punishments.

The fine shall be enumerated by the number of violators.

In all cases, the provisions of return to the act shall be applied if the offense or crime is repeated within one year from the date of expiry of the judged sentence.

### **Article (36)**

Any person attempts to commit a crime punishable under this law, or participates in that crime or assists or induces or urges other to commit such crime, shall be punished with the prescribed punishment for that who commits the crime itself.



### **Article (36) bis**

In the application of the penalties provided for in the preceding Articles, the provisions of Articles (83), (121) and (147) related to suspension of execution, the replacement of the sentence and the judicial amnesty mentioned in Federal Law No. (2) of 1987, shall not apply.

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\*\* Articles (34 bis 3 and 43 bis 4) were added by Federal Decree Law No. 17 of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

## **Chapter Eight**

### **Exemptions**

#### **Article (37)**

The following are exempted from implementation of the provisions of this law:

A- Presidents of states and their families.

B- Head of diplomatic missions and consulates accredited in the country, and their families. Members of diplomatic missions and consulates which are not accredited in the country shall be treated in accordance to reciprocity.

C- Holders of diplomatic passports, on condition of reciprocity.

D- Crews of vessels and airplanes coming to the country who hold marine tickets or air tickets from their concerned authorities.

E- Persons whom the chairman of the Board of Directors of Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship decides to exempt with a special permission for international courtesies.

F- Persons who are redeemed by virtue of international treaties in which the country is a party, but within the limits of these treaties.

## **Chapter Nine**

### **Provisional and final provisions**

#### **Article (38)**

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article (29), the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, with collaboration with security authorities in the member Emirates, shall record all foreigners who are residing in the country without residence permission in order to consider their granting permissions in accordance with the provisions of this law. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship may, by Decree, determine the rules and procedures to be followed in this regard

#### **Article (39)**

Entry visas and residence licenses granted by concerned authorities in the member Emirates prior to the date on which this law enters into force shall continue to be valid until they are cancelled by virtue of this law or until the expiry of their validity periods.

Certificates of no objection to provide entry visa to the Emirates, which are members in the Union, and which are valid at the date on which this law enters into force, are deemed as entry permission issued by virtue of the provisions of this law.

**Article (40)\***

The Cabinet shall determine the fees to be collected and necessary for the issuance of visas and entry permits of the State in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The Cabinet shall decide to settle the situation of violators of the provisions of this Law, regulate cases of exemption and impose fines on administrative irregularities.

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(\* ) Articles (37 , 40) have been amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 by amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

### **Article (41)\***

The sector of nationality, residency and the ports of the Ministry of the Interior shall be transferred to the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship. The employees working in such sector who are approved to be transferred shall be transferred by a Decree of the Cabinet to the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship. The rules of this transfer shall be regulated by the Decree of the Cabinet.

### **Article (42)**

The Federal Supreme Court shall adjudicate the offenses referred to in Articles 22 and 28 of this Law, and the other courts shall, within their competence, decide on other crimes.

### **Article (43)\***

The Cabinet shall issue the executive regulations of this law on the proposal of the Chairman of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship.

### **Article (44)**

The ministers, each in his jurisdiction, shall implement the provisions of this Law. This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and enters into force after one month of its publication.

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(\*) Articles (41 & 43) have been amended by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners

(\*\*) Articles (5, 6, and 7) were added by Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 concerning the entry and residence of foreigners

Article 5 of Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending certain provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners

The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship and the Ministry of the Interior shall begin to implement this Decree Law immediately upon its promulgation and transfer all data and files necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Decree Law to the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship within six months as of the date of its implementation. This period may be extended for a similar period by a Decree of the Cabinet.

The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship shall issue the regulatory procedures relating to the implementation of the procedures for the arrest and deportation of foreigners, which have been initiated and have not been implemented.

(\*) Article (6) of the Federal Law No. (21) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners.

The Executive Regulations and Decrees shall continue to be implemented pursuant to Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973, in consistent with the provisions of this Decree Law until the issuance of the Executive Regulations amended by the Cabinet and the issuance of the necessary regulations, resolutions and forms from the Chairman of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship.

(\* Article (7) of Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2017 amending some provisions of Federal Law No. (6) of the year 1973 regarding the entry and residence of foreigners

This Decree-Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the day following the date of its publication.

## **Table**

**This provision is in accordance with the latest amendment under Law No. 7 of 1985**

**It has been amended by Law No. (12) of 1981 - for the original text**

### **The following fees shall be collected for the State:**

A	For each visa or entry permit	60 (Sixty dirham)
B	For each visa for several trips	750 (Seven hundred and fifty dirham)
C	For each transit visa	50 (Fifty dirham)
D	For residence permit for work or residence	60 (Sixty dirham)
E	Renewing the visit visa	100 (one hundred dirham)
F	Renewal of Transit Visa	50 (Fifty dirham)
G	Renewal of residence permit for work or residence	60 (Sixty dirham)
H	Departure fees for each individual for non GCC nationals	20 (Twenty dirham)
I	Collective visa fees for each individual	60 (Sixty dirham)
J	Departure permit fees for immigration law violators	100 (one hundred dirham)
K	Domestic servants card and the like	50 (Fifty dirham)
L	Replacement of card of domestic servants and the like	50 (Fifty dirham)