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**Law No. (58) of 2009 regarding Elderly Rights**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution,

Legislative Decree No. (3) of 1975 regarding Public Health,

The Social Insurance Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (24) of 1976, as amended,

The Penal Code promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1976, as amended,

Law of Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, Private Bodies Working in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, as amended,

And Law No. (18) of 2006 regarding Social Security,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

Chapter One

General Provisions

Article (1)

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them:

1- Elderly: Any citizen who has reached the age of (60) Gregorian years.

2- The Ministry: The Ministry of Social Development.

3- The Minister: The Minister of Social Development.

4- The Committee: The National Committee for the Elderly.

5- Elderly Care Institution: Any public or private establishment licensed by the competent authorities to accommodate or care for the elderly and provide the necessary services thereto.

6- The Regulation: The Implementing Regulation of this Law.

Article (2)

The State shall ensure the care of the Elderly, guaranteeing them a dignified life by providing material and moral assistance, as well as the necessary health, residential, social, and administrative services. The State shall also ensure the necessary support for families to enable them to care for their Elderly members within their homes, as well as for the Elderly themselves to enable them to continue living with their families.

Article (3)

The protection and care of the Elderly shall be based on the following fundamental principles:

1- Incorporating the issues and needs of the Elderly into the core of the State's social and economic policies and developing plans and programmes aimed at improving their quality of life.

2- Encouraging the Elderly to continue contributing and participating in production and benefiting from their experiences and capabilities.

3- Emphasising the integration of roles between the family, the State, and civil society institutions in caring for the Elderly.

4- Raising awareness among the Elderly about their rights and empowering them to exercise and benefit from them.

5- Addressing all forms of discrimination and exclusion faced by the Elderly in family and social settings.

6- Raising public awareness of the challenges faced by the Elderly to ensure their integration into society, along with their protection and well-being.

7- Establishing a database and information system on the Elderly, disaggregated by gender, that keeps pace with demographic, social, and economic changes, and encouraging research and studies on the conditions and care of the Elderly.

Chapter Two

The National Committee for the Elderly

Article (4)

A committee shall be established, called the "National Committee for the Elderly," chaired by the Minister, and affiliated with the Ministry. It shall be formed by a decision from the Prime Minister and shall include representatives from all relevant ministries, civil society institutions concerned with the Elderly, and others with expertise and experience in Elderly affairs.

The Committee shall, within six months of commencing its activities, develop an internal regulation that includes the rules for organising its meetings, voting on its decisions, and all matters related to the organisation of its work.

The Committee may engage individuals with expertise to assist in its duties, without granting them voting rights.

Article (5)

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

1- Proposing the general policy and its executive plans for the care of the Elderly and their integration into society, and following up on the implementation of these plans with the relevant authorities to ensure their physical, health, psychological, and social security.

2- Developing a media plan to raise community awareness of the rights of the Elderly and the role of the family and society in their care.

3- Coordinating with the relevant governmental authorities regarding decisions that pertain to the Elderly.

4- Coordinating with the concerned governmental authorities to collaborate with international and regional organisations involved in Elderly care and to study their decisions and recommendations.

Article (6)

The State shall allocate the necessary financial resources the National Committee for the Elderly, and a budget line shall be included in the Ministry's budget. The Committee may accept donations and contributions and invest them for the purpose of financing Elderly care.

Chapter Three

Care for the Elderly

Article (7)

The establishment of a private institution for the care of the Elderly and the commencement of its activities shall not be permitted without obtaining a licence from the competent Minister in accordance with the controls specified by the Regulation. These institutions shall be subject to the supervision of both the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health.

Article (8)

An Elderly person shall not be admitted to into or remain in a care institution without their consent.

Admission and discharge of the Elderly person shall be based on a written request from them or from their legal representative, or based on a decision from the Ministry after the conditions specified in the Regulation have been met.

Chapter Four

Procedures for the Protection of the Elderly

Article (9)

The Ministry, in coordination with the Committee, shall issue a service card for the Elderly, which shall provide a discount of no less than 50% on the fees imposed by the State, as determined by a decision from the Cabinet. The Elderly person shall also receive discounts on living necessities from entities and companies that wish to participate in this initiative.

Article (10)

The Ministry, in coordination with the Committee, shall establish the conditions and regulations for alternative families to care for Elderly individuals with no guardians. Financial assistance may be provided to the caring family, and the Committee shall determine the amount of assistance and the conditions for its disbursement.

Chapter Five

Penalties

Article (11)

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated by the Penal Code or any other law, imprisonment and a fine of no less than one hundred dinars, or by one of these penalties shall be imposed on any person responsible for the care of the Elderly who fails to perform any act required for the care of the Elderly or who carries out any act that conflicts with this care, resulting in harm to the Elderly.
It shall be considered an aggravating circumstance if the act or omission is committed by relatives of the Elderly up to the third degree.

Article (12)

The Minister shall issue the Implementing Regulation and the necessary decisions to implement this Law within the first six months from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (13)

The Prime Minister and the Ministers—each within their jurisdiction—shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

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