

Federal Law No. 10 of 2023

Concerning Mental Health

We, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates

Having perused:

- The Constitution;
- Federal Law No. 1 of 1972 concerning Competencies of the Ministries and Powers of the Ministers, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 28 of 1981 concerning Detention and Treatment of People with Mental Illnesses;
- Federal Law No. 5 of 1984 concerning the Practice of Some Medical Professions by Persons other than Physicians & Pharmacists;
- Federal Law No. 5 of 1985 promulgating the Civil Transactions Law, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 43 of 1992 regulating the Punitive Facilities;
- Federal Law No. 28 of 2005 concerning the Personal Status, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 concerning Rights of People of Determination, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning the Private Associations and Institutions of Public Benefit, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 14 of 2014 on Combating Communicable Diseases;
- Federal Law No. 4 of 2015 concerning the Private Health Facilities;
- Federal Decree Law No. 4 of 2016 on the Medical Liability;
- Federal Law No. 2 of 2019 on Use of Information & Communications Technology in the Health Fields;
- Federal Law No. 5 of 2019 Regulating Practice of Human Medicine Profession;
- Federal Law No. 8 of 2019 concerning the Medical Products, Profession of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Facilities;
- Federal Law No. 13 of 2020 on the Public Health;
- Federal Decree Law No. 30 of 2021 on Combating the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as amended;
- Federal Decree Law No. 31 of 2021 Promulgating the Penal Law, as amended;
- Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 Regulating the Labor Relations, as amended;
- Federal Decree Law No. 38 of 2022 Promulgating the Criminal Procedures Law;
- Federal Decree Law No. 42 of 2022 Promulgating the Civil Procedures Law;
- Based on the Minister of Health and Prevention's Proposal, Approval of the Cabinet and the Federal National Council, and Ratification by the Federal Supreme Council;

We do hereby promulgate the following law:

Chapter (1)

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

Definitions & General Provisions

Article (1)

Definitions

In application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to each other, unless the context requires otherwise:

State: United Arab Emirates;

Ministry: Ministry of Health and Prevention;

Minister: Minister of Health and Prevention;

Health Authority: Any federal or local government agency concerned with the health affairs within the State;

Mental Health: A state of psychological and social stability through which the person can realize his goals as per his personal capabilities, deal with life pressures, work, produce, and contribute to the society;

Relevant Authorities: Any federal or local government agency that is related to the mental health protection in the State or is directly or indirectly related to enforcement of the provisions of this Law;

Mental Health Facility: A health facility licensed to provide the mental health services, whether it is independent or affiliated with other health facilities;

Mental Health Services: Preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative mental health services;

Committee: Control and Follow-up Committee;

Psychological Disorder: A disorder in thinking, mood, conduct, perception, memory, or some or all of the other mental abilities, provided that such disorder results in a disability in the social, employment, or educational functions or psychological suffering. These disorders are classified pursuant to the psychiatric classifications recognized by the international competent organizations and bodies;

Psychopath/ Psychiatric Patient: A person diagnosed with a psychological disorder;

Doctor: Doctor licensed by the health authority to practice the profession;

Psychiatrist: A doctor licensed by the health authority to practice the profession of psychiatry;

Treating Physician: The physician being responsible for examining and following up treatment of the psychiatric patient in the mental health facility;

Psychologist: The person who practices profession in a mental health facility, holds a university degree in the psychology major or its equivalent, and is licensed by the health authority to practice the profession in accordance with the applicable procedures;

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Social Worker: The person who practices a profession in a mental health facility and holds a university degree in the social service major, sociology, or its equivalent, and is licensed by the health authority to practice the profession in accordance with applicable procedures;

Psychiatric Nurse: The person who practices a profession in a mental health facility, holds a degree of no less than a diploma in nursing and is licensed by the health authority to practice the profession in accordance with the applicable procedures;

Counseling Psychologist: The person who practices profession in a mental health facility, holds a university degree in the psychological counseling major or its equivalent, and is licensed by the health authority to practice the profession in accordance with the applicable procedures;

Occupational Therapist: The person who practices profession in a mental health facility, holds a university degree in the occupational therapy major or its equivalent and is licensed by the health authority to practice the profession in accordance with the applicable procedures;

Guardian: The person being responsible for the psychiatric patient in accordance with applicable legislations;

Relatives: Husband, wife, or relatives up to the fourth degree;

Third Party: The employer or the consul of the State to which the person under assessment or treatment is a citizen, or their delegate;

Psychiatric Patient's Representative: Guardian, relatives, or third party;

Psychiatric Patient Restraining: Using safe ways to restrain the psychiatric patient's movement;

Isolation: Keeping the psychiatric patient alone for specific periods in a safe closed place prepared for this purpose as per the treatment requirements and under the direct supervision by the treating persons;

Patient Placement: Admission of a person to a mental health facility pursuant to an order by the competent judicial authority;

Mandatory Outpatient Therapeutic Care: The psychiatric patient undergoes treatment without his will outside the mental health facility;

Voluntary Admission: Admission of the psychiatric patient to a mental health facility for treatment at his or his representative's own will;

Emergency Admission: Admission of the psychiatric patient to a mental health facility in emergency cases to undergo an urgent medical intervention;

Mandatory Admission: Admission of the psychiatric patient to a mental health facility without his will in the cases stipulated in this Law;

Emergency Mental State: An acute clinical condition affecting the psychiatric patient, threatening his personal health or safety or the safety of others, and requiring urgent intervention;

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Assessment: Examining the person for preparing a report on his psychological state;

Mandatory Treatment: The psychiatric patient undergoes treatment without his own will;

Consent to Treatment: Consent by the psychiatric patient or his representative to be treated after reviewing the planned therapeutic services;

Patient Bill of Rights: A document setting out the patient's rights stipulated in this Law, the mechanism for submitting appeals and complaints, and the authority assigned to consider and decide on the appeals and complaints.

Article (2)

Objectives of the Law

This Law seeks to:

- 1- Regulate the relationship between the psychiatric patient and the various parties dealing therewith;
- 2- Provide the necessary health care for the psychiatric patient in accordance with the best applicable standards in this field;
- 3- Protect, and reserve the psychiatric patient's rights and dignity;
- 4- Reducing the negative impacts of the psychological disorders on the lives of individuals, families, and society;
- 5- Enhance the psychiatric patient integration into society.

Article (3)

Scope of Application

The provisions of this Law shall apply to all matters related to the mental health, psychiatric patient, mental health facility, and any other facility concerned in the State with caring for or dealing with the psychiatric patient, and the workers in any of them, including the free zones.

Article (4)

Mental Health Services Licensing

No mental health services may be provided without being licensed by the health authority, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (5)

Psychiatric Patients Register

The mental health facility shall keep a special register for the psychiatric patients. The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the data to be included in the register and the period of keeping it.

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Article (6)

Control and Follow-up Committee

Pursuant to a decision by head of the health authority, one or more committees to be called "Control and Follow-up Committee" shall be formed in each emirate in which the mental health services are provided, while the decision shall determine its activities regulations.

Article (7)

Committee's Terms of Reference

Without prejudice to the health authority's powers, the committee shall have the following powers:

- 1- Follow up the mental health facilities' reports on mandatory admissions;
- 2- Issue the necessary approvals for treatment of the psychiatric patients who refuse treatment in the cases of mandatory treatment, upon the health facility's request;
- 3- Ensure meeting the conditions stipulated in this Law in all cases of mandatory admission;
- 4- Control the mental health facilities and ensure their and their workers' commitment to applying the standards and procedures stipulated in this Law, and its Executive Regulations and Executive Resolutions;
- 5- Review the Patient Rights Care Committee's reports on the complaints and present recommendations thereon to the health authority, if necessary;
- 6- Decide on the appeals and objections to the Patient Rights Care Committee's decisions;
- 7- Decide on complaints regarding the outpatient psychological treatment services, medical centers and clinics;
- 8- Present reports to the health authority on the control and follow-up results;
- 9- Perform any other competencies specified by the Minister's Resolution after coordination with the health authorities.

Article (8)

Committee Decisions

- 1- The Committee shall issue its decision in the cases stipulated in this Law, which are informed by the mental health facility, provided that it shall issue its decision within six (6) working days at maximum as of the date of being notified of the case;
- 2- If the Committee fails to issue its decision within the period specified in paragraph (1) of this Article, the mental health facility's manager may take the necessary decisions regarding the psychiatric patient as per the provisions of this Law, provided that the Committee shall be informed of so.

Chapter (2)

Psychiatric Patient Rights

Article (9)

Public Rights

The psychiatric patient shall have the following rights:

- 1- Receiving a sufficient explanation - in an understandable way for him - about all his rights immediately after admission to the mental health facility, including his right to appeal, or provide such explanation to his representative if the psychiatric patient is unable to understand;
- 2- Being respected and provided with the necessary services in a proper environment to preserve his dignity and meet his needs as per his health condition;
- 3- Knowing nature of his admission to the health facility, if his condition allows so, or informing his representative, if necessary, as soon as possible;
- 4- Reserving and not limiting his legally established civil rights except for protecting him or others against harm or pursuant to a judicial order;
- 5- Not imposing restraints on his work or employment due to his psychological disorder or terminating his employment except on basis of a report by a specialized medical committee and as per the applicable legislations in the State;
- 6- Maintain his privacy and personal belongings at his room in the mental health facility;
- 7- Utilizing the communication services unless such act has a negative impact on his health condition or on others;
- 8- Receiving or refusing to receive visitors as per the mental health facility's visit regulations which may limit or prevent visits as per the therapeutic requirements;
- 9- Protecting confidentiality of his information in accordance with the applicable legislations to this end;
- 10- Being protected from degrading treatment, financial, physical, sexual and other exploitation;
- 11- Requesting to end the mandatory admission and presenting this request to the Patient Rights Care Committee;
- 12- Lodging any complaint against any person or body in the mental health facility without affecting level of the care provided to him;
- 13- Seeking the assistance of whomever he deems proper to represent him before others and manage his affairs within or outside the mental health facility;
- 14- Informing him personally or his representative or escort about nature of his admission to the mental health facility when issuing or renewing the mandatory admission decision, provided that he shall be informed of so in an understandable language or manner and shall be informed of all his rights in writing, including the reason for admission and the applicable procedures in the case of discharge;
- 15- Being discharged from the mental health facility after completion of the mandatory admission period and obtaining the psychological and social care plan;

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- 16- Obtaining the health insurance that guarantees comprehensive healthcare in accordance with the applicable legislations in the State;
- 17- Being provided with the support to facilitate education and learning and practicing the recreational and cultural activities in coordination with the relevant authorities;
- 18- Having any other rights issued by the Minister's resolution after coordination with the health authorities.

Article (10)

Rights associated with Healthcare for the Psychiatric Patient

When receiving the mental healthcare, the psychiatric patient has the following rights:

- 1- Obtaining the psychological treatment and medications in accordance with the recognized medical principles;
- 2- Being aware of his diagnosis, receiving full information about the treatment plan and its progress, the extent of response thereto, and any changes to the same, the therapeutic methods and their desirable benefits, the risks and potential side effects, and the possible therapeutic alternatives before his consent to treatment, as well as the reasons for his transfer inside or outside the mental health facility, if any. If the psychiatric patient's condition does not permit so, his legal representative's consent shall be obtained, taking into account the applicable procedures in the emergencies;
- 3- Actual and constant participation in the treatment plan as much as his condition permits to express his will;
- 4- Receiving the physical healthcare;
- 5- Being informed or informing his representative of the name and position of each therapeutic team member who cares for him in the mental health facility;
- 6- Receiving the due diligence in a safe and clean environment as per the applicable standards in the field of mental health;
- 7- Not undergoing any experimental treatment or medical research without his or his representative's consent, after fulfilling the conditions and controls stipulated in the applicable legislations in the State;
- 8- Not undergoing any treatment without his or his representative's consent except in the legally prescribed cases;
- 9- Being informed of the available health services in the mental health facility, the method(s) of access thereto, the costs thereof, and the costs of coverage thereof;
- 10- Obtaining a comprehensive report on his mental health state, as well as the examinations and treatment procedures taken while being in the mental health facility;
- 11- Obtaining a copy of his medical file as specified in the Executive Regulations of this Law;
- 12- Any other rights issued by the Minister's resolution after coordination with the health authorities.

Article (11)

Minor Psychiatric Patient

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The minor psychiatric patient shall have special health guarantees observing his age group, psychological condition, and best interests, including:

- 1- The right to education;
- 2- Obliging the minor psychiatric patient's representative to follow the treatment plan;
- 3- Any medical procedure shall be preceded by preparation by a social worker or psychologist;
- 4- Allocation of places upon mandatory admission, separation thereof from the adult places, and providing separate facilities for the same.

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the guarantees and controls for the mandatory admission of the minor psychiatric patient and all other issues related to his rights, as well as provision of advice and consultations to his family.

Article (12)

Patient Bill of Rights

The mental health facility shall place the patient bill of rights in visible places therein, hand over a copy thereof to the psychiatric patient or his representative upon admission, attach a copy thereof to his medical file and to the medical records after signing receipt thereof by the psychiatric patient or his representative, provided that such bill of rights shall be in Arabic and any other language specified by the health authority. In all cases, the mental health facility shall inform the psychiatric patient or his representative of the content of the patient bill of rights in a proper way for the patient.

Article (13)

Patient Rights Care Committee

In every mental health facility having psychiatric patient rooms, a committee called "Patient Rights Care Committee" shall be formed by a decision of its head, and be presided over by a psychiatrist and formed by the following:

- 1- Psychologist at the mental health facility;
- 2- Social worker at the mental health facility;
- 3- Psychiatric nurse at the mental health facility.

The health facility' manager may add any specialist to the committee membership.

The committee's activities regulations shall be determined by the decision of head of the competent health authority.

Article (14)

Terms of Reference of the Patient Rights Care Committee

The Patient Rights Care Committee shall have the following powers:

- 1- Ensure respect for the psychiatric patient rights stipulated in this Law;
- 2- Handle the psychiatric patients' or their representatives' complaints, take the necessary measures therefor and decide on the same;
- 3- Present periodic reports on the complaints to the committee.

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Article (15)

Appeal & Objection

- 1- The psychiatric patient or his representative may appeal the Patient Rights Care Committee's decision before the committee in accordance with the controls and procedures specified in its activities regulations;
- 2- The mental health facility's representative or his delegate may object to the Patient Rights Committee's decision before the committee in accordance with the procedures and controls specified in its activities regulations;
- 3- The appeal or objection shall not entail staying of execution of the appealed or objected decision, where the committee shall decide thereon within six (6) working days after the date of submitting the same.

Chapter (3)

Admission to the Mental Health Facility

Article (16)

Types of Admission to the Mental Health Facility

Admission of the psychiatric patient or person to the mental health facility for assessment or treatment may be voluntary, mandatory, emergency, or by placement. The mandatory admission to the private mental health facilities shall be approved by the competent court or the Public Prosecution in accordance with the conditions and controls specified by these authorities.

Article (17)

Voluntary Admission

Voluntary admission to the mental health facility for treatment shall be under a written consent by the psychiatric patient or his representative. He may leave the mental health facility at his or his representative's request, even if the treatment is not completed.

Article (18)

Prohibition from Discharge

The treating physician may prevent the psychiatric patient of voluntarily admission to the mental health facility from leaving it in accordance with the controls and procedures specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (19)

Mandatory Admission for Assessment

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The person's mandatory admission to the mental health facility for assessment shall be pursuant to a decision by the Public Prosecution or a judgment or order by the competent court.

Article (20)

Mandatory Admission Procedures for Assessment

- 1- The treating physician shall inform the person of mandatory admission to the mental health facility of the reason for his admission, if his health condition permits it, or inform his representative, when the mandatory admission procedures for assessment begin;
- 2- The mental health facility's administration shall inform the committee of any person of mandatory admission for assessment within a period not exceeding seven (7) working days after date of the admission decision;
- 3- The period of mandatory admission for evaluation shall not exceed forty-five (45) days, while the period may be extended for the period deemed proper by the committee, based on the assessment physician's recommendation;
- 4- The assessment psychiatrist may decide to apply the mandatory admission for treatment or mandatory outpatient therapeutic care to the person under assessment, subject to the judicial order or judgment of assessment.

Article (21)

Assessment Results Report

The mental health facility's administration shall prepare and refer a report on the assessment result to the Public Prosecution or the competent court, as the case may be.

Article (22)

Mandatory Admission for Treatment

Mandatory admission of the psychiatric patient for treatment shall be by decision of two psychiatrists, one of whom is a psychiatrist at the same mental health facility, provided that the mental health facility's administration shall be notified of such decision within twenty-four (24) hours.

Article (23)

Conditions for Mandatory Admission for Treatment

Mandatory admission of the psychiatric patient to the mental health facility shall be made only after verifying the following:

- 1- There is clear evidence proving the he suffers from a severe psychiatric disorder constituting a danger to him or others;
- 2- His admission is necessary for his recovery, or to cease impairment of his health condition.

Article (24)

Period of Mandatory Treatment

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The mandatory treatment period shall be as required for the patient's mental health condition, provided that such period shall not exceed forty-five (45) days, and that period may be extended for the period deemed proper by the committee based on the treating physician's recommendation.

Article (25)

Reporting the Mandatory Admissions

The mental health facility's administration shall inform the Public Prosecution of any case of mandatory admission for treatment within forty-eight (48) hours, and shall inform the committee within a period not exceeding seven (7) working days after the admission decision.

Article (26)

Reporting Escape from the Health Facility

If a psychiatric patient undergoing the mandatory treatment escapes, the mental health facility's administration shall inform the competent authorities and the patient's mental health representative to re-admit him to the mental health facility to complete the mandatory treatment procedures.

Article (27)

Objection to the Mandatory Admission Decision

The psychiatric patient or his representative shall have the right to object before the committee to the mandatory admission decision for treatment or extension thereof.

Article (28)

Termination of the Mandatory Admission

The mandatory admission for treatment shall be terminated under a decision by the treating psychiatrist, unless the patient is placed under the Public Prosecution's decision or pursuant to a judgment or order by the competent court.

Article (29)

Temporary Discharge Authorization

The treating physician may authorize the psychiatric patient to temporarily leave the mental health facility in accordance with the conditions, controls and procedures specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law, unless he is placed at the mental health facility pursuant to a decision by the Public Prosecution or a judgment or order by the competent court.

Article (30)

Referring the Psychiatric Patient to Treatment

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The psychiatric patient of mandatory admission may be referred to another mental health facility for treatment if he becomes ill and no treatment is available for him in the current mental health facility, provided that such referral shall be in accordance with the controls issued pursuant to the Minister's resolution.

Article (31)

Receiving the Psychiatric Patient

Unless the psychiatric patient is able to take care of himself or his placement in the mental health facility is pursuant to the Public Prosecution's decision or pursuant to the competent court's order, the psychiatric patient's representative or the referring entity shall receive him upon completion of his treatment period, in accordance with the applicable procedures of the mental health facility. If he is refused to be received, the matter shall be referred to the Public Prosecution to render a decision obliging whoever it deems proper to receive the same.

Article (32)

Death of the Psychiatric Patient

- 1- In the case of death of a psychiatric patient, the mental health facility shall notify his representative. If it is possible to notify his representative, the mental health facility shall notify the Public Prosecution.
- 2- In the case of death of a psychiatric patient being under the mandatory admission procedures for assessment or placement, the mental health facility shall notify his representative and the Public Prosecution.

Article (33)

Emergency Admission

In the case of emergency admission of a person to a health facility and such person has symptoms of a psychological disorder threatening him or others, the doctor shall detain and refer him to the psychiatrist within a period not exceeding twenty-four (24) hours as of the time of detention for examination, inspection, diagnosis, and provision of the necessary health care.

Article (34)

Detaining the Patient

If the doctor could not examine the person of emergency admission to the health facility and his condition threatening him or others, the psychiatric nurse, psychologist, counseling psychologist, social worker or occupational therapist shall detain this person in the health facility for a period not exceeding eight (8) hours and inform the doctor and the health facility's administration.

Article (35)

End of the Detention Decision

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The person detention period shall end upon expiry of the two periods set out in Articles (33) & (34) of this Law or in presence of the psychiatrist. In this case, the psychiatrist may admit the person to the mental health facility if his condition is subject to the mandatory admission conditions indicated in Article (23) of this Law, or through voluntary admission in accordance with Article (17) of this Law.

Article (36)

Seeking Assistance of the Police or Ambulance

Assistance of the police and/or the emergency team may be sought to transport the psychiatric patient or a person who shows symptoms of psychological disorders that are uncontrollable and threatening him or others, while refusing voluntary admission to a mental health facility, in accordance with the controls and procedures specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (37)

Access to the Private Places where there is a Psychiatric Patient

Subject to obtaining permission of the Public Prosecution, the police may access to the private places where there is a psychiatric patient suffering from a psychological disorder and transport him to a mental health facility, if the following is proven:

- 1- That he does not receive the necessary treatment, is neglected, or is unable to control his acts;
- 2- That he could neither rely on himself nor live alone because of his psychological disorder.

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the necessary controls and procedures for application of the provisions of this Article.

Article (38)

Placement of the Accused showing Symptoms of a Psychological Disorder

Subject to the provisions of the aforesaid Federal Decree Law No. 38 of 2022, when hearing the cases presented before them, the judicial authorities may place the accused showing symptoms of a psychological disorder that threatens him or others, for assessment or treatment.

Article (39)

Right to Assessment & Treatment

The persons of restricted liberty due to detention, imprisonment, or pre-trial detention may not be deprived of the necessary assessment or treatment if they show symptoms of psychological disorder.

Chapter (4)

Mandatory Outpatient Therapeutic Care

Article (40)

Mandatory Outpatient Therapeutic Care Controls

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

- 1- The psychiatric patient shall be subject to the mandatory outpatient therapeutic care only under a decision by the psychiatrist based on a medical recommendation or upon request of the psychiatric patient's representative to subject him to the mandatory outpatient therapeutic care, while his representative undertakes to implement the prescribed treatment program;
- 2- The psychiatrist shall issue the decision referred to in Clause (1) of this Article only after verifying the following:
 - A- That the psychiatric patient shows of a psychological disorder;
 - B- That the psychiatric patient's condition requires continuous treatment without the need for admission to a mental health facility;
 - C- That the psychiatric patient's condition does not seriously threaten his or other's safety and life;
 - D- That the patient's psychological condition will impair if treatment is ceased.
- 3- The mental health facility's administration shall follow up the patient's condition and inform the committee of his condition within a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days after commencement of the mandatory outpatient therapeutic care decision;
- 4- Based on the psychiatrist's recommendation and as approved by the judicial authority that ordered the placement, the psychiatric patient may undergo the mandatory outpatient therapeutic care in accordance with the procedures specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law;
- 5- The mandatory outpatient therapeutic care period shall end upon end of its purpose or requirement based on the psychiatrist's report.

Article (41)

Difficulty of Mandatory Outpatient Therapeutic Care

Subject to the provisions of Article (23) of this Law, the psychiatric patient shall be re-admitted to the mental health facility for treatment if he cannot undergo the mandatory outpatient therapeutic care or does not adhere to the treatment program specified for him.

Article (42)

Request for Referral to Treatment

The psychiatric patient receiving the outpatient clinic treatment or his representative may request to have his treatment be referred to an outpatient clinic in another mental health facility or a private clinic in accordance with the procedures issued by the Minister's decision after coordination with the health authority.

Chapter (5)

Controls for Treatment of the Psychiatric Patient

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

Article (43)

Patient Consent for Mandatory Admission

The psychiatrist may give the necessary treatment to the psychiatric patient of mandatory admission, with or without his consent, for a 45-day period commencing as of date of the admission decision, while that period may be extended, with the exception of the following cases in which the psychiatric patient's consent or his legal representative' consent shall be obtained:

- 1- Electroconvulsive therapy, except in the emergency cases;
- 2- Treatment of the organic diseases afflicted by a psychiatric patient, except in the emergency cases;
- 3- Special treatments specified by the Minister's decision.

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the conditions and controls for application of this Article.

Article (44)

Psychiatric Patient's Consent for Voluntary Admission

In the case of the psychiatric patient's voluntarily admission to the mental health facility and before providing any treatment thereto, the psychiatrist shall obtain the patient's or his representative's consent.

In addition, the psychiatrist shall write down the treatment plan and record the psychiatric patient or his representative's consent or dissent in his medical file, as well as in the case of making any material amendment to the treatment plan or its period, in accordance with the controls and conditions specified by the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (45)

Emergency Treatment

Subject to the provisions of Article (43) of this Law, the psychiatric patient of mandatory admission to the health facility may undergo the emergency treatment without his consent, including electroconvulsive therapy, in accordance with the recognized medical principles, and based on the psychiatrist's decision, in the following two cases:

- 1- The psychiatric patient's condition threatens his or others' life or safety;
- 2- Treatment is mandatory to prevent significant impairment of the psychiatric patient's condition.

Article (46)

The Psychiatric Patient revoking his Consent to Treatment

Whenever the psychiatric patient decides to revoke his consent to the treatment which he undergoes, the treatment shall be ceased if the case is not subject to the provisions of Article (45) of this Law.

Article (47)

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Restraining or Isolating Psychiatric Patient

Pursuant to Article (48) of this Law, the psychiatric patient may be restrained or isolated only under the psychiatrist's decision and without the need to obtain the psychiatric patient's consent. In the emergency cases, the psychiatric patient care nurse may resort to restraining or isolating him, provided that the care nurse shall immediately notify the psychiatrist to examine the psychiatric patient and determine the period of his restraint or isolation as he deems proper. In all cases, the restraint or isolation shall only be for the period required for his health condition and shall immediately end if the reason therefor is removed.

The Executive Regulations of this Law shall specify the procedures and controls for restraint and isolation of the psychiatric patient, including the isolation room controls.

Article (48)

Cases of the Psychiatric Patient Restraint or Isolation

The psychiatric patient may be restrained or isolated only in the following cases:

- 1- To prevent him from harming himself or others;
- 2- To prevent him from trespassing on property.

Article (49)

Transfer of the Psychiatric Patient

The psychiatric patient may be transferred inside or outside the State only if his health condition allows it, according to a safe transfer mechanism, and based on a mental health facility's written report confirming the possibility of his transfer.

If the psychiatric patient poses a danger threatening him or others, his transfer to a mental health facility shall be in accordance with safe transfer controls and requirements. The safe transfer controls for the psychiatric patient shall be determined by the Minister's decision.

Article (50)

Voluntary Application for Addiction Treatment

- 1- Any information or data - about the persons of admission to the health facility for drug abuse or psychotropic substance treatment plan - may not be disclosed to any entity other than the health authorities, judicial authority, and security authorities, without prejudice to the provisions of the Federal Decree Law No. 30 of 2021 on Combating the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;
- 2- If the adult druggie, or minor druggie' guardian or custodian voluntarily presents himself to the mental health facility for drug or psychotropic substance addiction treatment before issuing his arrest warrant, then admission to or discharge from the facility shall neither require the Public Prosecution approval nor does a criminal action be filed against him in this case.

Chapter (6)

Penalties

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

Article (51)

Imposition of the penalties stipulated in this Law shall not prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated in any other law.

Article (52)

Whoever commits any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment and/or a fine of not less than AED 50,000 (fifty thousand UAE dirhams), and not more than AED 200,000 (two hundred thousand UAE dirhams):

- 1- Intentionally writes down - in his medical report - unreal facts about a person psychological condition for his admission to or discharge from the mental health facility;
- 2- Causes, in bad faith, admission of a person to a mental health facility in contrary to this Law and the Executive Regulations thereof.

Article (53)

Whoever assists a person of mandatory admission to escape shall be punished by imprisonment for no more than more than three (3) months and/or a fine of not less than AED 50,000 (fifty thousand UAE dirham) and not more than AED 100,000 (one hundred thousand UAE dirham).

Article (54)

Whoever is assigned to guard, care, nurse or treat a psychiatric patient and intentionally mistreated or neglected him shall be punished by imprisonment for no more than one (1) year and/or a fine of not less than AED 50,000 (fifty thousand UAE dirham) and not more than AED 100,000 (one hundred thousand UAE dirham).

If the mistreatment or negligence results in a serious disease, significant injury or disability to the psychiatric patient's body, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) year and/or a fine of not less than AED 100,000 (one hundred thousand UAE dirham) and not more than AED 200,000 (two hundred thousand UAE dirham).

Article (55)

The penalties stipulated in this Law will be doubled in the case of repetition.

Article (56)

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

The penalties stipulated in this Law shall not prejudice to taking the disciplinary penalties against the mental health facilities or violators of the provisions of this Law and its Executive Regulations, pursuant to the applicable legislation to this end.

Chapter (7)

Final Provisions

Article (57)

Judicial Police

The employees designated under the Minister of Justice's decision in agreement with the Minister or head of the health authority shall have the judicial police officer capacity to detect and record violations of the provisions of this Law and its Executive Regulations and Resolutions within the scope of their competence.

Article (58)

Foster Homes

The relevant government agencies, public benefit associations, private sector and individuals may establish foster homes for accommodating and caring for the psychiatric patients whose condition does not require remaining in a mental health facility and who do not have a breadwinner to care for them or suffer lack the necessary family care. The Executive Regulations hereof shall specify the conditions and controls for operation of these foster homes.

Article (59)

Executive Regulations

Based on the Minister's proposal, the Council of Ministers shall promulgate the Executive Regulations hereof within one (1) year after the date of publication hereof.

Article (60)

Repealing

The aforesaid Federal Law No. 28 of 1981 and every provision contradicting the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.

Article (61)

Publication and Enforcement of the Law

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall be effective six (6) months after the date of publication thereof.

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*

Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

Promulgated by us at the Presidential Palace - Abu Dhabi:

On: Jumada Al-Awwal 13, 1445 AH

Corresponding to: 27/11/2023 AD

**In case of any misinterpretation, the Arabic version of this legislation prevails.*