

## بطاقة النظام

<b>System</b>	<b>Disability Law</b>
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<p>تنويه: هذه النسخة النصية للإطلاع وفي حالة الرغبة في الحصول على الوثيقة الأصلية للنظام راجع المركز الوطني للوثائق والمحفوظات.</p>	

## Disability Welfare Law

Royal Decree No.(M/٣٧)

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### Article ١

The following terms and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Disable Person:** Any person suffering from a permanent, whether total or partial, impairment affecting his senses, or his physical, mental, communicative, learning or psychological abilities, in a manner that reduces his ability to perform daily activities compared to a non-disabled person.

**Disability:** Suffering from one or more of the following disabilities:

Visual impairment, hearing impairment, mental disability, physical and motor disability,

learning disabilities, speech disorders, behavioral and emotional disorders, autism, double and multiple disabilities, and other disabilities that require special care.

Prevention: The set of medical, psychological, social, educational, informational, and legal measures for prevention, limiting or early detection of disabilities as well as limiting their effects.

Care: Comprehensive care services offered to a disabled person in need of care due to his health condition, degree of disability or social status.

Rehabilitation: A coordinated process to utilize medical, social, psychological, educational and professional services for the purpose of empowering disabled persons to achieve their maximum potential of functional efficiency so as to perform natural and social activities with comply with the requirements of their natural and social environment and develop their capabilities of self-reliance and be effective members in the community up to the level of their endurance.

The Supreme Council: The Higher Council for the Affairs of Disabled persons.



## Article ۲

The State shall guarantee the rights of disabled persons to access prevention, care and habilitation services, and shall encourage institutions and individuals to participate in charitable activities for the disabled. Such services shall be provided by the competent authorities as follows:

### ۱. Health Services:

Including:

- a) Provision of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services, including preventive genetic counselling, examinations and various laboratory tests for early detection of diseases, and necessary immunizations
- b) Registering and monitoring cases of high-risk newborns and reporting the same to the competent authorities
- c) Taking necessary measures to improve health care provided to disabled persons.
- d) Training health workers and those responding to accidents on dealing with the injured and providing them with emergency care during their transportation from the scene of the accident.

e) Training the families of disabled persons on providing care to them.

ϣ. Educational Services:

Providing educational services at all levels (pre-school, general, technical, and higher education) in a manner that suits the capabilities and needs of disabled persons and facilitates their enrolment, alongside with continuous assessment of curricula and services provided.

ϣ. Training and Rehabilitation Services:

Providing training and rehabilitation services in accordance with the type and degree of disability and labor market requirements, including the provision of vocational and social rehabilitation centers and appropriate training means.

ε. Employment Services:

Employment services include employment in jobs appropriate to the abilities and qualifications of disabled persons enabling them to discover their potentials and earn a living as other members of the society, as well as improvement of their work performance through training.

Ϟ. Social Services:

Social services include programs contributing to the development of the capabilities of disabled persons to achieve integration in various aspects of public life and reduce the negative effects of disability.

ϧ. Cultural and Sports Services:

Cultural and sports services include making cultural and sports programs and facilities accessible to disabled persons to facilitate their participation in local and international events.

Ϩ. Media Services:

Media services include raising awareness through audio, visual and print media in the following areas:

- a) Raising awareness on disability, its types, causes, as well as detection and prevention methods.
- b) Improving the image of disabled persons in the society, and raising awareness of their rights, needs, abilities, and contributions, as well as of services available to them, their duties towards themselves, and their role in the community.
- c) Allocating programs targeting disabled persons to ensure their integration in the society.
- d) Encouraging individuals and organizations to provide material and moral support to disabled persons, and promoting voluntary work for their benefit.

⊕. Complementary Services:

Including:

- a) Provision of safe and suitable public transportation means at discounted rates for the disabled person and the person accompanying him, depending on the nature of disability.

- b) Provision of day and home care services.
- c) Provision of supporting equipment.



#### **Article ۳**

The Supreme Council shall, in coordination with competent authorities, set the building specifications to meet the needs of disabled persons in rehabilitation, training, educational, care and treatment facilities, and in public places and other locations intended to achieve the purposes contained in this Regulation, provided that the relevant agency issue the necessary implementing decisions.



#### **Article ۴**

The Supreme Council shall, in coordination with the educational and training institutions, qualify and train national manpower in the field of disability, within the Kingdom and abroad, and exchange expertise in this field with other countries as well as relevant Arab and international organizations and bodies.



#### **Article ۵**

The State shall grant disabled persons, whether individually or collectively, soft loans to initiate professional or commercial businesses that suit their abilities.

**Article ٦**

Devices and equipment designed for disabled persons shall be exempted from customs duty, provided that they are identified in a list agreed upon with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

**Article ٧**

A fund under the Council shall be established for the care of disabled persons to which donations, gifts, legacies, endowments and fines for violations to the regulations governing the services provided to disabled persons.

**Article ٨**

A supreme council for the disabled persons shall be established, reporting to the Prime Minister. It shall be composed as follows:

- President, appointed pursuant to a royal decree, and the following members:
- Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.
- Minister of Health.
- Minister of Education.
- Minister of Finance and National Economy.
- General President of girls' Education.
- Minister of Higher Education.

- Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs.
- Secretary-General of the Council.
- Two disabled persons, two businessmen concerned with the affairs of disabled persons, and two specialists in the field of disability, appointed by the Prime Minister based on a recommendation by the President of the Supreme Council for a term of four renewable years. The President of the Supreme Council may designate one of the members to act on his behalf in his absence.



## **Article 9**

The Supreme Council shall set the general policy in the field of disability and regulate the affairs of disabled persons, and shall, in particular, assume the following:

- a) Issue regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of this Law.
- b) Propose amendments to the statutory provisions relating to the affairs of disabled persons in various fields; propose rules relating to the benefits and financial support to be provided to disabled persons or caretakers; and propose imposition of fines or modification thereof.
- c) Monitor the implementation of this Law and its regulations, as well as other relevant laws and regulations.
- d) Coordinate between the government agencies and the private sector with respect to services provided to disabled persons.
- e) Encourage research on the scope, types and causes of disability, as well as prevention, treatment and management methods to overcome or limit its negative effects, and identify professions most appropriate for the training and rehabilitation of disabled persons in accordance with the degree and type of disability as well as labor market requirements.
- f) Encourage organizations and individuals to establish programs and charitable organizations for the care and rehabilitation of disabled persons.
- g) Review annual progress reports issued by relevant government agencies on prevention, rehabilitation and care services provided to disabled persons, and take necessary measures.
- h) Issue regulations for the acceptance of donations, gifts, bequests and endowments.
- i) Issue work rules for the Disability Welfare Fund.
- j) Issue bylaws to regulate the work procedures of the Council.

k) Provide an opinion on international conventions relating to disabled persons, and on the Kingdom's accessions to regional and international organizations concerned with disability.



#### **Article ١٠**

The Supreme Council shall submit an annual report to the Prime Minister on its activities, services provided to disabled persons, and difficulties encountered, as well as on support for services provided to the disabled.



#### **Article ١١**

- a) The Supreme Council shall convene at least twice a year upon a call by its President or his designee.
- b) Council meetings shall be valid if attended by majority of its members including the President or his designee. Its decisions shall be passed by a majority vote of attending members; in case of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.



#### **Article ١٢**

The Council shall have a general secretariat. The Secretary-General and staff shall be appointed according to the civil service laws. The Secretary-General shall:

- a) Manage the tasks of the general secretariat.
- b) Carry out the functions of the Council's secretary, prepare for meetings, record meeting minutes, and communicate its decisions to concerned agencies.

- c) Draft the implementing regulations of this Law.
- d) Prepare technical studies required by the Council.
- e) Prepare draft laws and regulations relating to the affairs of disabled persons, in coordination with relevant agencies.
- f) Prepare the Council's draft budget.
- g) Represent the Council before government agencies and other relevant entities.
- h) Form committees of experts and specialists to review issues related to the affairs of disabled persons.
- i) Prepare the Council's annual report.
- j) Any other tasks assigned to him by the Council.



**Article ١٣**

The Supreme Council may form a preparatory committee from among its members or others and determine its powers and work procedures.



**Article ١٤**

The Council shall have a budget subject to the provisions governing the state budget.



**Article ١٥**



All applicable laws, regulations, decisions, and instructions relating to disabled persons shall be amended in line of this Law and its regulations within a period not exceeding three years from the date of its publication.



**Article ١٦**

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force after one hundred and eighty days from the date of its publication.

