

Legislative Reality (Constitution)

The Constitution of the United Arab Emirates emphasized equality, social justice, security, tranquility, and equal opportunities for all citizens, and that all citizens are equal before the law, as well as affirming the provision of services such as free compulsory education, health service, and job opportunities for all citizens, and the need Issue laws to regulate public assistance and social security to protect childhood, maternity and other persons unable to care for themselves. This came in many of its articles, such as Article 14, Article 16, and Article 25, and up to Article 44 of the UAE constitution.

- **16 federal laws pertaining to the family, all its members, and society in all its categories.**
- **6 executive regulations and ministerial decisions.**
- **7 international agreements and conventions ratified by the United Arab Emirates.**
- **8 policies.**
 - National Youth Empowerment Strategy 2015.
 - The National Strategy for Empowering and Entrepreneurial Emirati Women 2015-2021.
 - National Policy for People of Determination 2017.
 - The National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood and the Plan to Promote the Rights and Development of Children of Determination 2017-2021.
 - Strategy to support family stability in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi 2018-2025.
 - National Family Policy 2018.
 - National Policy for Senior Citizens 2018.
 - Policy to combat violence against women in the Emirate of Dubai 2018.

The concerned authorities of Families at the level of the United Arab Emirates

- **Federal Government:** (Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Social Support Centers, Ministry of Health and Community Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments, Sheikh Program Zayed Population, Gender Balance Council, Federal National Council).
- **Local governments:** (Abu Dhabi Community Development Department, Dubai Community Development Authority, Sharjah Social Services Department, Local Health Authorities, Local Education Authorities, Local Judicial Departments and Courts, Police, Local Housing Authorities, Human Rights Committees, Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Supreme Council for the Family, Dubai Women's Foundation, Project Support Institutions).
- **Public Benefit Societies - Civil Society Sector:** (General Women's Union, Dubai Women's Renaissance Association, Sharjah Women's Union Society, Umm Al-Mu'mineen Society in Ajman, Women's Action Coordination Committee, Emirati Women's Police, Emirates Child Protection Association, Juvenile Care Association, Women's Association in Umm Al Quwain, Dubai Women's Association, Ras Al Khaimah, Dubai Foundation for Women and Children).

Family protection policy

❖ Vision:

A stable and secure family life that guarantees its members all the rights in a way that guarantees their active connection and active participation in social life.

❖ The message:

Towards a social system that achieves protection for family members and their active participation in community development, and reflects the complementarity of positive partnership between family and society.

❖ Objectives:

- Focus on the regulatory and legislative frameworks that govern fair relationships between family members.
- Strengthening coordination mechanisms between bodies concerned with family protection and referral systems.
- Developing appropriate tools and channels to communicate with protection centers.
- Raising the feasibility of programs and services aimed at protecting family members and rehabilitating them if necessary.
- Expanding studies and research on family protection and increasing its interconnectedness.
- Developing general societal awareness of correct and fair methods of dealing with family members in a manner that promotes a culture of tolerance.

Definition of family protection

Protecting family members from any abuse, harm, or threat committed by a family member or similar against another family member, bypassing his state, guardianship, maintenance, authority or responsibility, and it results in material and psychological harm.

Policy Hubs

- ✚ Legislation and laws.
- ✚ Protection and intervention mechanisms.
- ✚ Qualitative training for workers and raising job competencies.
- ✚ Studies, research and statistics.
- ✚ Prevention and community awareness.

Forms of violence

1. Physical Violence:

Any aggressive physical behavior on the individual by another individual within the family, or withholding physical needs from him/her, or performing any physically harmful behaviors, or threatening them directly, including, for example: hitting, threatening to harm, or withholding physical needs.

2. Verbal Violence:

Any abusive language used to discredit, embarrass, or threaten a victim, for example: using ugly and inappropriate contact names, telling victims that they are undesirable, agitating and screaming.

3. Psychological or Moral Violence:

Any behavior that exploits the victim's weakness to confuse him and notify him of personal insecurity, whether in real life or in virtual reality, including, for example:

Manipulating the victim's nerves, intimidation, attempting to control, transition leading to undermining the victim's self-confidence, public humiliation, threat of murder, refusal to speak.

4. Sexual Violence:

Any behavior that includes sexual abuse, whether it is verbal or physical behavior, for example: the use of force or coercion, manipulating the victim, forcing the victim to have sex, unwanted sexual experiences, engaging in prostitution, preventing pornography with the victim as a mechanism of control, Threatening the victim to publish or expose his/her photos using social media or other different means of publication.

5. Economic Violence:

Any behavior that includes manipulation of the victim's economic resources, for example: not allowing the victim to obtain or reduce money in one way or another, directing family income out of place, coercing the victim into an allowance, causing the victim to lose his/her job.

6. Neglect:

The apparent and persistent failure that is evident in the failure to provide basic material, psychological, health or educational needs, or to take precautions and measures to prevent harm in a way that threatens the safety of any family member, and calls for its right to protection and care, including but not limited to: Failure to extract identification documents, failure to follow-up on life affairs, refraining from counseling.

Target groups

- The husband, father and mother of either of them, and grandchildren
- The children of one of the spouses from another legal marriage
- Brothers and sisters, of either spouse
- A person covered by a surrogate family custody
- Relatives up to the fourth degree

Protection and intervention mechanisms

- **Adoption of a System for Reporting and Receiving Complaints:** introducing a unified mechanism for reporting and receiving complaints, assessing damage, and responding quickly to cases at the country level.
- **Primary Prevention Standards:** Build and implement a guide to standards and best practices for working within the primary prevention, in a manner that ensures complementarity and accuracy of roles between the relevant authorities.
- **Developing the Administrative Structure:** Creating and amending the administrative structures in the relevant authorities (courts, procuratorates, hospitals, etc.) with jurisdiction to face problems, so that they include sections and protection units that include protection specialists (social and psychological).
- **Family Protection Center:** Establish a specialized center to receive and accommodate cases, provide the necessary services, and devise a suitable treatment plan for each case to help them solve their problems.