

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Ministry of Social Affairs

Social Welfare and Family Agency

General Directorate of Social Protection



Executive Regulations of Child Protection Law



Executive Regulations of Child Protection Law

Chapter 1

Detentions, Objectives, Cases of Abuse and Negligence

Article (1):

In the implementation of the provisions of this Law, and whenever stated, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned against each unless the context requires otherwise

1. **Child:** Every human being below the age of eighteen.
2. **Abuse:** Every form of child abuse or exploitation, or the threat to do so, including:
 - **Physical Abuse:** The child's exposure to bodily harm or injury
 - **Psychological Abuse:** The child's exposure to mistreatment that may cause him psychological or health damage.
 - **Sexual Abuse:** The child's exposure to any kind of sexual assault, abuse or exploitation.
3. **Negligence:** Non-provision of the child's basic needs or failure to do so, including: physical, health, emotional, psychological, pedagogical, educational, intellectual, social, cultural, and security needs.
4. **Regulations:** The Executive Regulations of this Law.
5. **Relevant Authorities:** Authorities concerned with Child protection, as determined by these Regulations.

Terms and expressions - wherever they may occur in these Regulations, shall have the meanings assigned against each unless the context requires otherwise:

1. **Ministry:** The Competent Ministry, as the context may require.
2. **Minister:** The Competent Minister, as the context may require.
3. **Law:** Child Protection Law.
4. **Regulations:** The Executive Regulations of Child Protection Law.
5. **Child:** Every human being below the age of eighteen. The age is proven by birth certificate, national ID, family register, or any other official document, if the official identification documents are not available; the age is estimated by one of the accredited medical authorities.



- 6. Threat of Harm:** Any act or say of a Person addressed to a Child that would cause the child fear of intended harm to his/her person or money. It is likely that the threatening party can carry out the threat, such as threatening the Child with any kind of Physical, Psychological or Sexual Abuse.
- 7. Physical abuse:** Every act, say, willful or repeated default or negligence that result in causing damage to the Child's body.
- 8. Exploitation:** Engaging the Child in legitimate or illegitimate acts, taking advantage of his/her young age, indiscretion, fancy, inexperience, or failure to impose punishment on the aggressor.
- 9. Sexual Exploitation:** Child's exposure to prostitution performance or displays, or to any sexual practice that violate the Sharia or law, whether directly or indirectly, paid, or unpaid, and with or without the consent of the Child.
- 10. Mishandling:** Any continuous or repeated act or say that would lead to harm the Child's psychological and health development, body, dignity, or rights guaranteed by Sharia or law.
- 11. Negligence:** Failure of the parents or the caregiver to provide the child basic needs, lack of parental control, failure to maintain the child's life, safety, mental, psychological and physical health, failure to grant the child's legal rights.
- 12. Physical Need:** Whatever necessary to maintain the Child's survival, protect the Child moral and physical rights, and ensure his/her basic needs of food, beverage, clothing, and shelter.
- 13. Health Need:** Whatever necessary to provide the child with fundamental health care, including immunization with serums and vaccines, protect the child from epidemics and diseases, and ensure the child gets the appropriate treatment.
- 14. Emotional Need:** Whatever necessary to fulfil the Child's emotional needs, including keeping the Child within the family, providing a foster family, or enrolling him in social welfare institutions or the equivalent.
- 15. Psychological Need:** Whatever necessary to ensure the healthy psychological development of the Child, secure the suitable environment for his/her welfare, avoid the child's continuous feeling of threaten or fear, and the provision of the appropriate psychological treatment, if necessary.
- 16. Pedagogical Need:** Child provision with knowledge and appropriate experience for his age, sensitization, and upbringing through an optimal educational approach.
- 17. Educational Need:** Whatever necessary to provide the child with free basic education and ensure the provision of an educational environment appropriate to the child age and condition.



- 18. Intellectual Need:** Ensure the Child's right to express his opinions and desires, and allow his/her actual participation in judicial, administrative, social or educational proceedings affecting him/her in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
- 19. Mental Need:** Whatever necessary for optimal development of a child in the emotional, behavioral, intellectual, scientific, linguistic, and cognitive domains.
- 20. Social Need:** Whatever necessary to promote the growth of the Child physical, psychological, cultural and moral capabilities in line with the religious and social values of the society; and ensure the Child attainment of new skills, maintaining social relationships, friendships, cooperation and integration with others.
- 21. Cultural Need:** Ensuring the satisfaction of the cultural needs of the child in all fields including literature, art, and knowledge, and link them with the values of the society within the framework of human heritage and scientific development.
- 22. Security Need:** Whatever necessary to ensure that the Child secure feelings within his natural family, foster family, or the surrounding environment, and to feel protected from all kinds and forms of violence, harm, or inhuman handling.
- 23. Foster Family:** Alternative family entrusted to provide social, educational, psychological, health and professional care to children deprived of their natural families.
- 24. Guardianship:** An authority established by Sharia that authorizes the guardian to act and manage the affairs of the Child on his behalf in relation to his body, soul and money in the best interest of the child.
- 25. Authority:** A legal right established by the Sharia or Law that gives the Person the Authority to act on behalf, and to manage the affairs of the Children, in his/her best interests.
- 26. Responsibility:** a situation where a person is legally or legitimately responsible for the consequences of the actions of another Person, based on legal or legitimate relationships.
- 27. Sponsorship:** Any type of foster care for a Child, aiming to provide his basic needs and sound upbringing.
- 28. Being (living) without Family Support:** Every case in which the Child loses care of his natural family.
- 29. Person:** Natural or legal person, as the context may require.
- 30. Sexual Harassment:** Exposure of the child to any sexual excitement or activity with the aim of sexual stimulation of the perpetrator, including voyeurism, foreplay or attempting to penetrate, expose the child to pornographic, obscene materials, or involve the child in filming, recording or production of pornographic materials, or in distributing it in any form.



- 31. Relevant Authorities:** Every public or private Authority entitled to provide the child with protection, and enable the child exercise his/her rights, including but not limited to, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance, the Human Rights Commission, the Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution, the National Commission for Childhood, the National Society for Human Rights, Family Safety Program, the Child Helpline, and any other Relevant Authority.
- 32. Military Actions:** Actions whose nature requires joining military, regular or irregular armed forces.
- 33. Homeless Child:** Child exposed to the risk because of abnormal presence in the street to a degree that exposes his moral, psychological, physical, or educational safety to risk.
- 34. Child in Need of Care:** Child of Unknown Parentage, deprived of the care of his parents or one of them or relatives, due to their death, separation of the spouses, imprisonment, permanent mental or physical illness, such as paralysis or any other chronic disease or other similar reasons, hence the child family fails to provide the child care and treatment.
- 35. Child at Risk of Delinquency:** The Child who lives in an environment that exposes his/her moral, psychological, physical, or educational integrity to danger.
- 36. Child toys:** Products designed or intended - whether exclusively – for use in play by children under 18 years of age.
- 37. Social Organizations:** Every social welfare organization - public or private - dedicated to shelter or host children in need of care or reform.
- 38. Receiving communications Center:** The Center established in the Ministry of Social Affairs to receive communications from victims of abuse and domestic violence from any region of the Kingdom.



Article (2):

This Law aims to achieve the following:

- 1. Ensure implementation of Islamic rules (sharia), laws or international conventions to which the Kingdom is party, which preserve the Child's rights and protects him/her from all forms of abuse and negligence.**
- 2. Protect the Child from all forms and manifestations of abuse and negligence that he/she may be exposed to it in the surrounding environment (home, school, neighborhood, public places, care and education institutes, foster family or governmental and private institutions or the equivalent), whether abuse or negligence is committed by the child Guardianship, Authority or Responsibility over the Child of any form, or by any other Person.**
- 3. Ensure the rights of the Child who is exposed to abuse and negligence, by providing the necessary care.**
- 4. Raise awareness of children rights and empower children to claim their rights especially the rights related to protection from abuse and negligence.**

To achieve the objectives of this Law, the Relevant Authorities, in their respective areas of competence, shall:

- 2.1 Protect the Child from all forms of Abuse, Negligence, discrimination, and exploitation, empowering children to claim their rights in accordance with Sharia law, the provisions of the Child Protection Law and its Executive Regulations, and in any other law or international convention to which the Kingdom is party.
- 2.2. Ensure that the social environment surrounding the Child in his/her home, school, neighborhood, public places, care home, social home, foster family, governmental and non- governmental institutions, or the equivalent, is a suitable environment to protect the Child from any threatening to his life, physical, psychological, intellectual, educational or moral health.
- 2.3 Provide the necessary care, attention and rehabilitation for the child exposed to abuse or negligence and empower in a manner that guarantees assist the case to settle down and adapt to their family or social conditions.
- 2.4 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, and in the number and suitability of their staff assigned to protect children from negligence and abuse and to empower children to their rights.
- 2.5 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate administrative, social, pedagogical and educational that ensure the Child protection from all forms of discrimination, violence, harm, physical or mental Abuse, negligence, negligent treatment, mishandling, exploitation, or inequality, whether the Child is in the



care of his/her parents, one of them, or their substitutes, or in the care of any other person, or an educational, correctional, sheltering, social or charitable institution.

- 2.6 The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies.
- 2.7 Disseminate awareness of the importance of empowering the Child of his rights, protect him from abuse and negligence through the various media, educational and Social Organizations and other Relevant Authorities, awareness of community members of the concept of abuse and negligence, its seriousness and adverse effects on an individual's personality as well as stability and solidarity of the community; the necessary measure to prevent abuse and deal with it if occurs; raise awareness of children and their families of their rights under Sharia or law, intensify family counseling programs, that help address undesirable social behavior conducive to creating an environment leading to the occurrence of abuse or negligence. The Ministry shall cooperate with the relevant authorities to achieve the above.
- 2.8 Support and conduct scientific research and studies relating to child protection from abuse and negligence. Organize specialized training programs for all persons involved in dealing with abused cases, including judges, detecting and recording officers, investigation officers, physicians, specialists and other parties related to child protection and rights empowerment.
- 2.9 The Ministry of Social Affairs, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and other public or private authorities related to dealing with cases of Abuse and Negligence shall monitor, collect and document data and information of child abuse, negligence or lack of empowerment of child rights - Kingdom wide, to provide accurate authenticated unified statistical data at kingdom level to be utilized in devising treatment mechanisms and the conduct of scientific research and studies specialized in the protection from abuse phenomenon.
- 2.10 The Relevant Authorities shall coordinate to ensure provide children with shelter, treatment, assistance, as well as moral, social, psychological, health and security care in general, and to the abused or neglected victims of children.
- 2.11 The Child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding to ensure the full and harmonious development of his personality.
- 2.12 The child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and brought up in the spirit of the ideals of Islamic Sharia, inherent Arab customs, conventions and other agreements related to the Child rights to which the Kingdom is party.



- 2.13 Taking all necessary measures to develop awareness and educational programs for individuals and society in a manner that helps provision of necessary support for the Child and his guardian and indicate the forms and methods of prevention of abuse and negligence and its reporting mechanisms.
- 2.14 Introducing concepts of combating abuse and violence in educational curricula and reporting mechanisms.
- 2.15 Providing the relevant entities with appropriate training on how to deal with children's issues in a manner that contributes to the proper implementation of the Law and its Executive Regulations.



Article (3):

Exposure of the Child to any of the following shall be deemed an abuse or negligence:

1. Leaving him/her without a family support.
2. Non-extraction, concealing or non-maintenance of his/her identification documents.
3. Non-completion of the necessary vaccinations.
4. Cause disruption to the child education.
5. Exposure to environment in which he/she may be at risk.
6. Exposure to maltreat.
7. Exposure to exploitation or sexual harassment.
8. Exposure to financial exploitation or being exploited for any criminal or begging purposes.
9. Using libel terms that are derogatory to the child dignity or that lead to denigrating him/her.
10. Expose the child to obscene, criminal scenes that are inappropriate to his/her age.
11. Discriminating against children for any ethnic, social, or economic reason.
12. Continuous obvious failure in bringing up and providing care thereto.
13. Allowing the child to drive vehicles when under the legal age.
14. All what threatens the child safety or physical or psychological health.

- 3.1 It is necessary to keep the Child in his/her family surrounding, and not to be separated from his/her parents unless the interest requires otherwise, and the child shall have the right to enjoy the various conditions of life appropriate to his/her needs and age, and are compatible with normal family surroundings.
- 3.2 The Child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right since birth, to a full name that does not involve humiliation or denigration of his/her dignity or that is contrary to religious beliefs and customs, and as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.
- 3.3 The Child has the right in life, survival and development within a coherent and cooperative family; and enjoy different preventive measures to protect him/her from all forms of physical or mental violence; , injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment, including sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 3.4 The Child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except in case of judicial ruling, or by a resolution of separation issued by the competent authorities for the best interests of the child, especially in case the child is abused or neglected by the parents, or if the parents are living separately and a decision must be made regarding the child residency due to the failure of any of the parents to provide the child with care. The competent authority that issued the separation decision shall immediately refer the matter to the court.



- 3.5 The Child has the right to preserve his identity from birth- including Child in Need of Care, including name, surname, age, date of birth and nationality, to be proofed by a birth certificate, family registry, national identity card or any other official document approved by the competent authority.
- 3.6 The father, guardian or their representatives shall apply for the child identity and follow it up with the relevant administrative authorities to provide what is necessary in this regard. The relevant authorizes shall issue - with no delay- the necessary documents to prove the Child identity, or whatever documents required to continue his/her education even if the father, mother or both have problems regarding the child nationality or proof of identity, and in all cases the Child shall not be prevented from learning.
- 3.7 The Child's identification documents shall not be withheld, neglected by any authority, or Person, including his/her parents. The guardian or any other concerned person may attain a duplicate of the documents if it is not obtainable from the possessor.
- 3.8 The Child shall be provided with the necessary vaccinations and immunizations to prevent infectious and other diseases as specified by the relevant health authorities and in accordance with the scheduled dates and periods prescribed in this regard. The duty to provide the Child with the vaccination rests with the father or the guardian, and the responsible health Authorities shall be obliged to create a medical file for every Child to register the required vaccinations and the development of his/her health conditions. The school health or the substitute health authority shall conduct the periodic medical checkup for school students throughout the pre-university education levels, provided that this checkup takes place at least once a year.
- 3.9 Every Child has the right in education, and competent authorities shall take appropriate measures to facilitate this. No administrative procedure shall prevent the Child from being accepted or enrolled in schools. Efforts shall be made to prevent early dropout of children from schools, and to encourage regular attendance.
- 3.10 The father, guardian or their delegates shall enroll the Child in school, and none of them shall be allowed to cause disruption of the child's education. The school -where the child is enrolled- shall follow up the child's attendance and investigate the reasons of his/her absence, and raise the issue to the competent authorities, if necessary.
- 3.11 Schools, care and educational institutions shall not resort to apply disciplinary or behavioral penalties to the Child that would prevent, deprive, or cause to disrupt of the child education.



- 3.12 Schools, educational and care institutions, homes and care houses and shelters providing childhood care shall develop policies to protect children within their whereabouts from any intentional abuse or harmful unintentional practice, and develop control measures to protect the child from any harm or illegal practice.
- 3.13 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure that the Child is not subjected to Sexual Exploitation or is left without a Guardianship, supervision authority or family care.
- 3.14 The Relevant Authorities shall prevent the Exploitation of the Child in commercial marketing, involve him/her in organized or non-organized crime, or allow him/her to beg or to be displaced.
- 3.15 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure that the Child is not subjected to continuous or repeated psychological or social abuse using profanity or cruel words, or the use of verbal violence, that causes the child damage to his psychological formation, especially his/her self-perception and self-respect.
- 3.16 The Relevant Authorities shall prevent the Child exposure - directly or indirectly- to immoral, criminal, information, or material inappropriate for his/her age, or might endangers his/her belief, thought, or behavior.
- 3.17 The Relevant Authorities shall protect the Child against all forms of discrimination, due to the place of birth or parents, sex or race, disability, or any other status, and ensure effective equality between children in the use of all rights.
- 3.18 Parents or guardian shall not allow the child to drive unless he/she reaches the minimum legal driving age in accordance with the applicable traffic regulations. He/she shall not be enabled -in any way - to drive or rent any motorized vehicle, except after obtaining a driving license.



Article (4):

Child at Risk of Delinquency in any of the following cases:

- 1. Exposure to begging or any other illegal act.**
 - 2. Revolts against his/her parents or caregiver authorities.**
 - 3. Habitual fleeing from home, educational or sheltering institutions.**
 - 4. Habitual sleeping at places that are not intended for residence or overnight sleeping.**
 - 5. Frequenting to places that are socially and morally of dubious reputation or places that are inappropriate to his age, or association with Homeless Children and corrupted persons.**
 - 6. Performing unlawful acts related to prostitution, immorality, gambling, drugs, or the like, for the child interest or for the interest of others.**
- 4.1 It is forbidden for the Child's parents or his caregiver to allow him/her practice begging or exploit the child in begging or in any other illegal act.
- 4.2 In case the Relevant Authorities caught a Child during begging or being exploited by others in an unlawful act, the Relevant Authorities shall take appropriate measures to protect the Child and prevent the repetition of the unlawful act. In cases the child is not a Saudi national and lacks a family or a caregiver, the relevant authorities shall then coordinate with the child's country embassy to arrange for his/her deportation, while continuing providing assistance and support to the child until he/she leaves the Saudi lands.
- 4.3 In the event that the Child revolts against his/her father or caregiver authorities, the concerned Authority in the Ministry of Social Affairs shall conduct a social and psychological evaluation for the child condition, question and discuss the action with the child, his/her parents or caregivers and listen to their rationale, and determine if the cause is a personal misbehavior of the child, or resulting from his/her parents or caregiver attitude or from the child surrounding environment, The concerned authority shall develop the appropriate recommendation for the child's rehabilitation for approval, implementation and follow up.
- 4.4 In the event that the Child is used to fleeing from home, educational or sheltering homes, sleep in places not intended for residence or overnight stay, frequenting suspicious moral or social places, places inappropriate for his age, or mingling with homeless Children or corrupted persons, the following shall be taken:
- A. Every person who becomes aware that a Child is engaged in any of the preceding cases shall report the case to the relevant authorities.
 - B. Upon receiving the report, the Relevant Authorities shall communicate with the Child, his parents, or whoever takes their place to investigate the reasons and verify if there is negligence from there side or not.



- C. In the event of default or abuse by the parents, or one of them, or their substitutes, they will be summoned and discussed, and ensure their undertake to supervise and monitor the child's behavior, and in the event of repetition, they shall be warned that the matter will be referred to the Investigation and public prosecution authorities.
 - D. If it becomes apparent that the cause is a personal misbehavior of the child, or resulting from his/her surrounding environment, the concerned Authority in the Ministry of Social Affairs shall conduct a social and psychological evaluation for the child condition, question and discuss the action with the child and listen to his/her rationale. The concerned authority shall develop the appropriate recommendation for the child's rehabilitation for approval, implementation and follow up.
 - E. In the case the parents are separated and the child's custody is given to one of them, and it becomes clear that welfare, protection, and his/her discipline shall be better achieved by transferring the custody to his other parent, this will be done temporarily by a decision from the Relevant Authorities in the Ministry of Social Affairs, and his documents shall be referred immediately to the court issuing the custody ruling with the justifications to decide on the matter legally.
 - F. In case the child's life is threatened, or if he is exposed to sexual abuse from one of his parents or his guardian, the child will be placed at an alternative family, urgently and temporarily, until the matter is considered.
- 4.5 In the event that the Child is caught performing acts of prostitution, debauchery, gambling, drugs, or the like, or supporting its providers, the child's parents or guardian shall be held responsible of the child's practice. If it becomes clear that the parents are aware, allow or enforce the child to practice the mentioned actions, the child will be placed with one of his relatives, if any, or with an alternative family, or at a care institution. The necessary actions will be taken against the parents, one of them, or the guardian according to the situation. The competent relevant Authorities shall be notified in writing to act towards the suspicious places and take the necessary corrective actions against the mentioned places.
- 4.6 In case negligence or dereliction of parents, one of the parents, or the guardian is not proved, the parents or one of them will commit in writing to provide the child with necessary care and protection.



Chapter II

Children's rights to protection

Article (5):

In all circumstances, the Child shall have the priority to enjoy protection, care and relief.

- 5.1 The Relevant Authorities shall place the interests of the Child above everything else and give priority and preference in regard to providing assistance, shelter and psychological, social, health and security support.
- 5.2 The Child shall be given priority of protection, care, rescue, and guidance in cases of emergencies, disasters, armed conflict, or the like.
- 5.3 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure that the mentally or physically disabled child enjoys a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, facilitate the child's active participation in his/her community and ensure their education and training.
- 5.4 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure that the disabled child has effective access to, and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development.
- 5.5 The Relevant Authorities shall promote, in the spirit of cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling these parties improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas.



Article (6):

The Child have the right to be protected from all kinds of abuse or negligence.

- 6.1 The relevant authorities shall ensure guarantee the Child's right to life and strive to protect him from all forms of abuse and negligence, and empower the child exercise his rights legally and systematically.
- 6.2 The Relevant Authorities shall propose appropriate preventive measures to apply the child's right of protection from abuse or negligence and implements what falls within its jurisdiction.
- 6.3 Bearing in mind provisions of these Regulations, all parties, when dealing with cases of child abuse or negligence, shall take into consideration the following rules:
 1. Take into account the best interests of the Child in all measures taken to protect from abuse and to fully exercise enable his/her rights.
 2. Dealing with cases of Child Abuse or negligence in accordance with the criteria that allows the distinction between abuse, serious negligence, harm, possible or usual or repeated negligence in daily life, and provide the child with assistance, treatment, protection, sheltering or hosting if necessary and as required in view of the type of abuse.
 3. Taking into consideration that resorting to any of the means used for handling the case will not result in more severe harms to the child, or affect his family or living situation, The competent authority in the Ministry of Social Affairs should strive to find compromise solutions that protect the Child and deter the source of the violation or abuse and prevent the recurrence of abuse act.



Article (7):

A Child who lacks a suitable family surrounding may be subjected to Abuse or Negligence, and shall have the right to alternative care through the following:

- 1. A foster family who takes over the child responsibility and provide him/her with care.**
- 2. Social, governmental, or charitable social welfare organizations if a foster family is not available. The Regulations shall specify the necessary controls hereunder:**
 - 7.1 Child care provided through foster families or governmental, civil or charitable social care organizations aims to provide social, psychological, health and professional care for Children whose circumstances prevented them from being brought up within their natural families, and provide them with a sound upbringing making up for lost care and affection, especially Children In need of care.
 - 7.2 A Child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of family environment, or family bonds, or whose best interest requires, shall be entitled to exercise his/her right to protection, and receive assistance and shelter in one of the governmental, civil, charitable social welfare organizations or foster families. Unavailability of the child identity documents shall not hinder the acceptance of fostering of the child in case the child will remain without care.
 - 7.3 It is necessary to secure an alternative family environment to accommodate the Child, and ensure providing him/her with a decent life, and enable him/her to enjoy all their rights to education, treatment, and nutrition.
 - 7.4 The children in need of care, children with unknown parents or residency, and children that the social research proved the impossibility of their custody within their natural families shall be entitled to benefit from the foster or alternative family care.
 - 7.5 It shall be ensured that the Child is not exploited by the foster families, financially, sexually, physically, or psychologically, or that he/she is maltreated or neglected, and that the fostering will assist in integrating the child into his/her community.
 - 7.6 The Relevant Authorities regulating alternative care shall notify the Child of Unknown Parentage with his status at an early age, according to the procedures followed by the Ministry of Social Affairs in this regard.
 - 7.7 Specialized training programs shall be organized for all parties concerned with the alternative care system and foster families in the Ministry of Social Affairs or governmental, civil or charitable social welfare organizations, and hold seminars and meetings to study problems and difficulties that may impede them at work, with a view to improve their performance.



- 7.8 In the event that the Child is subjected to physical or psychological violence or Negligence, or is mistreated or deprived of his/her rights by his/her foster family, the ministry will move the child to one of its affiliated social care entities. The foster / alternative family shall be denied any future sponsorship or care of Children, without prejudice to their accountability to the abuse or negligence act.
- 7.9 The alternative child care provided by foster families, alternative families, or governmental or private social welfare institutions shall continue until the age of settlement of the child, either by employment of males' or marriage of females unless the competent authority in the Ministry of Social Affairs decides otherwise.
- 7.10 The Foster Care Authority in the Ministry of Social Affairs shall propose a regulating policy for foster and alternative families, and set measures of monitoring the implementation of its rules, assess its performance, review submitted applications, monitor the conditions of Children under care placed according to its regulation, and submits the necessary periodic reports in this regard.
- 7.11 The foster family is assigned according to specific criteria and controls specified by the competent authority at the Ministry of Social Affairs, in a manner that guarantees the safety and protection of the Child, whether in the phase of assignment, follow-up, or termination of hosting, provided that the following is taken into account:
1. The seat of the foster family shall be located in a good environment; where educational, religious, medical, and athletic facilities are available, and it shall also meet the required health conditions, as well as the acceptable level of health for family members.
 2. The family income is sufficient to meet their needs, and that the Care allowance is not a goal, but rather an aid to provide the required care to the Child.
 3. The Foster family is capable of providing the child with care and protection, in terms of time and other social conditions.
 4. The foster family shall accept the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Representative, to include visiting the family's home, interview the Child in care and follow up his wellbeing without prejudice to the principle of preserving the sanctity of life.
 5. The foster family commits that communications relevant to the childcare will be through the Ministry of Social Affairs channels, and it shall be prohibited to hand him over, even if temporarily, to his parents or one of them, if any, or to any other person.
 6. The foster family shall be obligated to notify the Ministry of Social Affairs immediately of any change in its social status or change of his home address and of any change in the conditions of the Child in care, such as his/her employment, enrollment in school, escape, death, or the marriage of a girl.



7. The foster family shall commit not to travel outside the Kingdom, with or without the Child in care, except with the approval of the competent authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 7.12 The Ministry of Social Affairs shall manage different financial aspects concerning disbursements of sheltering, temporary or permanent sponsorship costs or its ceasing in accordance with the rules, bylaws, and instructions regulation these disbursements.
- 7.13 A foster family may provide the custody and care to the child without any financial return and shall have the right to bequeath him/her some of its properties as determined by the provisions of Islamic Sharia. The foster family may also deposit- on a regular basis- at the Ministry of Social affairs a defined amount to the favor of the child under care, and the Ministry shall deposit this amount in the Child's saving account. It is not permissible to spend any of deposited money except with a justification to be approved by the authority holder in the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 7.14 It is permissible to transfer the Child in question from one foster family to another, or from a social organization to another if his/her interests or protection so requires and as specified by the laws, Regulations and instructions in force with the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 7.15 Governmental, private, charitable social welfare institutions and foster families shall provide the child with shelter and comprehensive care under the supervision and follow-up of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 7.16 Social welfare organization of all kinds and foster or alternative families, when dealing with Children in need of care, shall abide by the provisions of the Child protection system, its executive Regulations, the protection from harm system, its executive Regulations, the basic social homes Regulations and other related Regulations.



Chapter III

Child Protection Prohibitions

Article (8):

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Labor Law, it is prohibited to employ a Child before the age of 15, or to employ the child in any works that may expose his/her safety, physical or psychological health to risk, or engage the child in Military Actions or armed conflicts.

- 8.1 Every child shall have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in public life.
- 8.2 The Child shall have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or have to be harmful consequence to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
- 8.3 Considering the provisions of Labor Law, it is prohibited to employ a Child below the age of 15 in a private or public sector job. The training of the Child on some ordinary and non-strenuous work that has no harmful consequence to their health or growth, nor interferes with their school attendance - within the family or the like – shall not be considered as employment.
- 8.4 Taking into account the provisions set forth in Paragraph (8.3), the Minister of Labor may permit the employment or work of children aged 13-15 years in non-strenuous work, provided that it is has no harmful consequence to their health or growth, nor interferes with their school attendance, or hinder their participation in vocational training or vocational guidance programs, or impair their ability to benefit from their education.
- 8.5 An appropriate regulation shall be developed to determine the system for the employment of the children over the age of 15, including mandatory requirements for their employment. A child shall not work for more than six (6) hours a day, the working hours shall include one or more period for meals and rest totaling not less than one hour. This/these period/s shall be determined so that the child shall not work for more than four (4) continuous hours.
- 8.6 A medical examination shall be performed on the child prior to his employment, to ensure that he/she is fit to perform the assigned work. Such examinations shall be conducted periodically, at least once a year. In all cases, the work shall not cause any physical or mental pain or harm to the child or prevent the child's from attending school and enjoy recreational and developmental activities appropriate to his capabilities and talents. The employer shall insure the child and protect him from work hazards while at work.



- 8.7 Children shall not work overtime or work during the weekends or official holidays. In all cases, children shall not work during night shifts that -not less than twelve consecutive hours -except in cases specified by the Minister of Labor.
- 8.8 The employment of children in any type of work that, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children shall be prohibited, in particular regarding the employment of a child in any type of work set forth on the Worst Forms of Child Labor convention or any other relevant international treaties.
- 8.9 Any employer who employs a child shall issue him/her a work ID card stating that he/she is working for him. The picture of the child shall be affixed on this ID card.
- 8.10 The employer shall maintain at the headquarters all official documents regarding the age of all working children and their health status, to be presented when requested. The employer is also responsible to ensure to ensure the real age of the children working for him.
- 8.11 The employer shall provide the workplace with all necessary health and professional safety devices and train the children how to use them.
- 8.12 The employer shall deposit the Child's wage, bonus, or other compensation in his/her bank account, and in the event of the unavailability of a bank account, the employer shall hand over to the child personally, with the knowledge of one of his parents, his wage or bonus and other dues payable thereto.
- 8.13 All Relevant Authorities shall ensure the protection of the child's life, safety and security upbringing away from armed conflicts, and shall, in cases of emergency, disasters, wars, and armed conflicts, ensure the respect of all his rights, and shall take all necessary measures to prosecute and penalize any person who commits against the child any acts of war crimes, genocide, or crimes against humanity.
- 8.14 Relevant Authorities shall take all feasible measures to ensure that any person who have not attained the age of eighteen years do not take a direct part in military activities, and refrain recruiting any person who has not attained the age of eighteen years into armed forces or the like, unless otherwise stipulated in the prevailing regulations.
- 8.15 It is prohibited to exploit children in gatherings and rallies that violate Regulations and instructions.



Article (9):

It is prohibited to exploit the Child sexually, expose to any form of Sexual Exploitation, trafficking, or exploit in any criminal actions or in begging.

- 9.1 The Relevant Authorities shall protect the Child from all forms of Sexual Exploitation, and from coercing or engaging in any unlawful sexual activity, or from using or exploitation in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices. Exposing the Child to prostitution, whether for or without compensation, directly or indirectly, shall be recognized as Sexual Exploitation of the Child, male or female.
- 9.2 Prohibit the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.
- 9.3 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures to prevent child's kidnapping, sale, sale of organs, or trafficking for any purpose, or to exploitation of any form, including exploitation in begging practicing.
- 9.4 It is prohibited to exploit the Child in various forms of organized and unregulated crime, including planting the ideas of intolerance and hatred or inciting the child to carry out acts of violence and intimidation.



Article (10):

It is prohibited to use the Child in the manufacture, sale or trafficking of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in all ways:

- 10.1 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- 10.2 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures and procedures to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- 10.3 The necessary preventive measures shall be taken to ensure that the Child is not harmed in any way, including in the case of the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic for educational, medical, or other reasons.



Article (11):

- 1. It is prohibited to sell to any child tobacco, its derivatives and other substances risking the Child safety, and it is also prohibited to exploit the Child in the purchase of these substances, or to engage him/her in the production, sale, or advertisement of tobacco.**
 - 2. It is prohibited to import or sell Child toys or candies manufactured in the form of cigarettes or any resembling smoking device.**
 - 3. It is prohibited to display scenes encouraging the smoking of children, and it is also prohibited to smoke in the presence of a child.**
- 11.1 Tobacco shop owners and buyers are prohibited to sell tobacco or any of its derivatives to children, whether for the use of the child or the use of others.
 - 11.2 Tobacco shop owners and buyers – Under penalty of legal liability- shall ensure that the purchaser of these substances is not a Child.
 - 11.3 The regulators of the tobacco retail outlets shall monitor their commitment to prevent the sale of tobacco and its derivatives to children, and shall also inspect the shops periodically to ensure that they are free of Child toys and candies manufactured in the form of cigarettes or any resembling smoking device.
 - 11.4 It is prohibited to exploit children in any advertisement promoting the selling of tobacco, any of its derivatives, or any other substances that poses risk to the child's safety or health on different printouts, audio-visual media and websites.
 - 11.5 It is prohibited to display any scenes that encourage or justify the Child's smoking on any printouts, audio-visual media, and websites.
 - 11.6 The Child's relatives and his other acquaintances, whether at home, school, public or private places, shall refrain smoking in the presence of the child.
 - 11.7 The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Customs Authority shall prohibit the import and sale of toys and candies manufactured in the form of cigarettes or any resembling smoking devices, ensuring that the entrance of these products to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is prohibited.



Article (12):

It is prohibited to publish, display, circulate, possess or produce any visual, audio or printed works or games for children that address the child's sexual instincts, or adorn the behaviors that are contrary to the public order, morals, and provisions of Islamic Sharia or that would encourage abnormal behavior.

- 12.1 All Relevant Authorities, whether public or private, are prohibited to publish, display, circulate, possess or produce any visual, audio or printed works or games for children that address the child's sexual instincts in a way that promotes or contributes to violation of the legal provisions or public morals.
- 12.2 The concerned authorities shall monitor the audio-visual media production directed to Children; in a manner that ensures full compliance with Islamic Sharia, applicable Regulations, public Laws, and morals.
- 12.3 Parties concerned with Children affairs shall determine the age group targeted by the printed article or audio-visual material, to contribute to maintaining the Children intellectual and mental development and prevent their delinquency.
- 12.4 The Relevant Authorities including various media providers shall publish programs, information, and materials of social, cultural, intellectual, pedagogical, and educational benefit to the Children.
- 12.5 The Relevant Authorities shall encourage the production and dissemination of children's useful books and encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to the child well-being, education, and health.
- 12.6 The Relevant Authorities shall encourage the production of television programs directed to Children, designed to promote the child's proper Islamic and intellectual upbringing and education, and develop their respect of the values of citizenship.



Article (13):

It is prohibited to allow Child participation in races; athletic, or recreational activities that endanger his/her safety or health.

- 13.1 The Relevant Authorities shall take the necessary procedures to secure the safety of children when participating in races, athletic or recreational activities in a manner that ensures that the child's safety or health is not endangered.
- 13.2 It is prohibited to allow the Child participation in races; athletic, or recreational activities that endanger his/her safety or health, such as camel races or the like.
- 13.3 Schools and educational institutes shall provide suitable and safe areas for children playing during their leisure time, and in proportion to their age.
- 13.4 The Relevant Authorities, whether public or private, shall display apparent and visible instructions and guidelines in areas designated for Children to practice athletic and recreational activities in a manner that ensures his/her safety.
- 13.5 An adult observer or attendant shall be provided for the Child when participating in races, athletic or recreational activities that do not harm or endanger his/her safety.
- 13.6 The seat belts are mandatory for swing seats, and for other games if needed, to prevent children from falling.
- 13.7 The owners and the In-charge of entertainment areas shall be place appropriate barriers on high toys to ensure that children safety.
- 13.8 Entertainment parks workers shall be trained to handle accidents resulting from the use of Children Games and playgrounds, and to deal with safety and security requirements of these places.
- 13.9 The toys shall be appropriate to children ages and capabilities, and a signboard shall be placed next to each game/toy to clarify the minimum age for the user and the maximum number of users per round as well any other necessary information, and playing instructions, whenever possible.
- 13.10 A first aid kit shall be placed in an accessible location in playgrounds and entertainment areas frequented by children, and telephone device shall be also placed for emergency calling of ambulance or police authorities, if needed.



- 13.11 The Child toys shall be equipped, whenever possible, with safety accessories such as extra wheels on bicycle sides, helmets, knees, and elbows brace.
- 13.12 The planning of safe roads and crossings shall consider the safe access of children to playgrounds and areas of entertainment, whether on foot or by bicycle, and designating playground locations away of traffic and causes of accidents.
- 13.13 The Relevant Authorities shall encourage the establishment of children's playgrounds and entertainment parks in neighborhoods, schools and other centers concerned with child's affairs.
- 13.14 Bicycles shall not be ridden on public roads by those under the age of 12 years old, and the person in charge of the child shall be held responsible for all harmful consequences thereon.
- 13.15 Bicycle rental agencies and their employees shall not rent bicycles to children under the age of (12) years old; otherwise they shall be held accountable for all harmful consequences caused to third parties and to the child himself.



Article (14):

Without prejudice to provisions of other laws, it is prohibited to perform any medical intervention or procedure for the embryo except for medical necessity or interest.

- 14.1 It is prohibited to perform any medical intervention or procedure for the embryo except for medical interest or necessity, in accordance with the provisions of the Health Professions Law and its Executive Regulations, and Law of Fertilization, Infertility Treatment Units.
- 14.2 The Relevant health care Authorities shall provide appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers; to ensure maintain a healthy infant and protect it from pre-natal and post-natal diseases.



Chapter IV

The Child's right to care and responsibility

Article (15):

1. **The Child's parents, one of them, or others whom responsible for the child, shall have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development, ensure his rights, provide the necessary care, and protect from abuse and negligence.**
 2. **The Relevant Authorities shall take the necessary measures to ensure Child's parents - or whoever cares for him/her - are committed to assume their responsibilities towards the child, preserve his/her rights, and protect him/her from abuse and negligence.**
 3. **In the event of parents' separation, the Child shall have the right to visit and maintain direct contact with any of them, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.**
- 15.1 The Child shall have the right to live within a coherent and cooperative family, receive care and know his/her parents. The Child's parenthood shall not be attributed to anyone except the nature parents, adoption is prohibited, and the parent shall have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. The Relevant Authorities shall take all necessary measures to ensure the commitment of the Child's parents or legal guardians to bear the common responsibilities and duties of the upbringing and development of the child to his best interests.
- 15.2 In the event that the Child is in the custody of one of his/her parents, the father or his substitute shall be responsible to bear the child expenses, facilitate his/her education, vaccinations, treatment, and obtain his/her identification documents, and take the primary responsibility for securing - within the limits of his financial capabilities and abilities - the living conditions necessary for the Child's development.
- 15.3 Subject to Paragraph (4.3) of these Regulations, the Relevant Authorities shall ensure the child communication with his/her parents, including visiting them, and it is not permissible to separate the child from his/her parents under duress except in the cases where a court ruling is rendered preventing both or one of them to contact the child. It is permissible temporarily that the authority concerned with the protection of the Child may prevent direct communication between the Child and any of his/her parents or their substitutes if he/she is accused of harming or torturing him/her until a sentence is rendered or the judge authorizes the communication if in the best interests of the Child.



- 15.4 The Relevant Authorities shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities, and services necessary for the care of the child.
- 15.5 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child of a working mother has the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.
- 15.6 The Relevant Authorities shall work to ensure the right of the family of any poor child to benefit from social security services, including granting benefits and aids in accordance with the provisions of the social security system.
- 15.7 The Relevant Authorities shall ensure the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development.
- 15.8 The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures to collect the Child's alimony from his/her legal liable caregiver and ensure that the child receives the alimony on a continuous and regular basis.
- 15.9 Taking into account the best interests of the Child, the Child separated from his/her parents or one of them shall have the right to maintain personal relations and direct contacts with both of his/her parents on a regular basis, and the Relevant Authorities shall work to ensure the Child's communication with his/her parents and assure that, in the event of their separation, it will not be permissible for any of the parents to distort the respect of the child for his other parent. It is prohibited for one of the parents to request seeing the Child in police stations.
- 15.10 In case the custody of the child is given to one of his parents, the child shall have the right to be seen or visited by the other parent at the domicile of the custodian parent on specified dates. In the event that the parents or their substitutes disagree on the place of the visit, the ruling of the visit shall be executed in one of the designated social centers. The Ministry of Social Affairs and other Relevant Authorities shall encourage and support the establishment of family meeting centers and units in its branches or in its affiliated or supervised associations to ensure the psychological and social safety of the Child.
- 15.11 If the child custodian refuses the visit of the other parent, or in cases the Child is not returned to the custodian after the visit, the competent authority for Child protection at the Ministry of Social Affairs may request the police authorities to force the parent to return the child to his custodian. In case of the parent refusal, the case will be referred to the relevant judiciary to claim his/her compliance, and implement the penalties stipulated in the Enforcement Law established in this regard. In all cases, it is not permissible to take the infant from his/her mother except by a sentence or by an evidence proving that she has harmed or tortured the child.



Article (16):

All authorities shall consider the best interest of the Child in all his/her related required actions, enforce its achievement , and take into account the child's Mental, Psychological, Physical, Pedagogical, and Educational Needs, in appropriate to the child age, health, and the like.

- 16.1 The Relevant Authorities shall work to ensure the right of every Child to a standard of living that is adequate for the child's physical, mental, psychological, and social development. These Authorities shall have the supervisory authority to ensure the Child achieves his /her different needs, such as Physical, Psychological, Pedagogical or Educational needs, whether within the child's natural family, foster family, Social Welfare Organizations, schools or other places that the Child frequents. The Relevant Authorities shall take all measures and procedures to ensure that the Child receives his/her different needs.
- 16.2 The Relevant Authorities shall issue instructions to its employees, confirming the Child first priority over others in all judicial, administrative, health, educational, and other transactions and procedures, and that the protection of the Child and his/her best interests shall be a priority in all decisions and procedures related to childhood, regardless of the issuing or initiating authority.
- 16.3 Before carrying out the marriage contract, it is necessary to ensure that the marriage of a person under the age of eighteen shall not harm any of the couple – male or female and achieves their best interest.
- 16.4 It is prohibited for any natural or legal person who deals with the Child to perform any behavior that might negatively affect the Child's mental, psychological, physical, pedagogical, or educational capabilities. The child guardian or his/her substitutes shall report any behavior to which the Child is subjected to, that ignores the child Mental, Psychological, Physical, Pedagogical, or Educational Needs, age, health, or interests. The Relevant Authorities, each within its respective, shall take appropriate measures to prevent this ignorance of the child's needs and handle on occurrence.
- 16.5 It is prohibited to delay the issuing of the child's identifications documents. In cases of concerns relevant to the issuance of identification documents related to the parents or one of them, the child shall be provided with a proof of identity to enable the child exercise his right to education, treatment, and any other rights.
- 16.6 A Child who is under the care of the Ministry of Social Affairs, any of its institutions or entities under its supervision, alternative or foster families and is lacking identification documents shall be enabled to exercise his/her right to education, treatment, and other right by a letter addressed from Ministry to the concerned authority to empower the Child enjoy his rights.



Article (17):

The Relevant Authorities shall quickly take appropriate welfare and reform measures if the Child is in an environment that puts his/her mental, psychological, physical, or pedagogical integrity at risk of delinquency.

17.1 The Relevant Authorities shall take all necessary measures and procedures to protect the Child from the risks of delinquency that puts his/her mental, psychological, physical, or pedagogical integrity at risk. The child shall be considered at risk if he is exposed to a situation threatening the sound upbringing that should be made available to him, or in any of the following cases:

1. If the child's safety, morals, health, or life is at risk.
2. If the conditions surrounding the child's upbringing in the family, or at school, or in care institutions, or others, places him at risk, or if the child is exposed to neglect, abuse, violence, exploitation, or vagrancy.
3. If the Child is unduly deprived of his rights, even partially, in terms of custody or in visiting either parent or whoever is rightfully entitled to visitation rights.
4. If the those responsible for covering the child's expenses abandon him, or if the child loses his parents, or one of them, or if the child's parents or his guardian abandon all responsibility towards him.
5. If the Child is deprived of basic education.
6. If the child is exposed in the family, school, care institutions, or other to violence, or to acts contrary to public morals, or pornographic material, or to commercial exploitation of children, or to harassment or sexual exploitation, or to the illegal use of alcohol or narcotic substances affecting the mental state.
7. If the child is found begging. Acts of begging include offering for sale trivial goods and services, or performing acrobatic shows not appropriate to his age, collects cigarette butts, or any other kinds of trash or waste and other similar activities.
8. If the child has no permanent residence, or generally sleeps in the streets or in other unfit places for residence or accommodation.
9. If the child mingles with deviants or suspected deviants, or with those known for their bad reputation.
10. If the child behaves badly or revolts against his/her father's authority or guardian or custodian or caregiver or is against his mother's authority in the case of the death, absence, or legal incapacity of his guardian.



11. If the child has no legitimate means of supporting himself or does not have trustworthy provider.
12. If the child is physically, mentally, or psychologically sick or mentally disabled, in a manner affecting his ability to perceive or chose, and where such illness or weakness would endanger his safety or that of others.

17.2 The Relevant Authorities shall rapidly take appropriate welfare and reform measures if the Child is exposed to any of the preceding cases and in a manner that guarantees the child's care within his/her family, an alternative family, or the relevant social care institutions and homes.



Article (18):

The Relevant Authorities shall take all appropriate measures to achieve the following:

- 1. Play a constructive and active role in raising awareness in the field of prevention and health guidance, particularly with respect to the areas of child health and nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, prevention of diseases and accidents and the harm caused by smoking during pregnancy, and clarify child's rights through the health media in this regard.**
 - 2. Support the school health system in order to play its role in the field of prevention, treatment and health guidance.**
 - 3. Ensure the Children rights to receive appropriate education to his/her age.**
 - 4. Protect Children against serious and infectious diseases.**
 - 5. Protect the child from injuries resulting from traffic accidents and others.**
 - 6. Protect Children from the risk of environmental pollution.**
 - 7. Relief the suffering of children in difficult circumstances, such as disputed children, homeless children and displaced persons, and victims of disasters and wars.**
- 18.1 The Ministry of Health and other Related Authorities shall take all necessary measures and procedures to maintain Child's healthcare and enable him/her to enjoy the highest attainable standards of healthcare by providing appropriate health facilities for treatment and rehabilitation, while ensuring that no Child shall be deprived of his/her right to any of the health care services.
- 18.2 Every Child shall have a healthcare card registered in the competent health center records and will be handed to the Child's parent or guardian. This health card shall be presented at each medical examination of the child whether at the health units, childhood welfare centers, or other concerned medical units, to record the health condition of the child, and the vaccination or immunization of the child and their dates.
- 18.3 The healthcare card shall be submitted together with the admission papers of the child to the primary school level - whenever possible. The card shall be kept in the school file of the child, to document the result of the follow-up on the child's health condition during the primary school level.
- 18.4 Health authorities shall specify, by a decision, the dates and procedures of periodic medical checkup of schoolchildren in accordance with the regulating instructions and rules.
- 18.5 It is not permissible to add any coloring materials, preservatives, or any food additives to the food and formulas intended for feeding children unless they are in conformity with the conditions and specifications approved by the competent authorities.



- 18.6 It is not permissible to advertise food and formulas intended for feeding children except after registration and usage license from the competent authorities, especially milk substitutes.
- 18.7 Schools and other relevant educational authorities shall prohibit the entry or sale of junk food, shall coordinate with health and other Relevant Authorities to determine the quality of meals and food stuff sold in school canteens or catered by contractors or suppliers, and it is also prohibited to sell soft drinks, energy drinks, and any other substances that might harm the Child's health.
- 18.8 Protect the child from infectious diseases and ensure provision of emergency treatment in governmental hospitals and healthcare centers, whenever needed.
- 18.9 New Couples planning to get married shall be obliged to carry out pre-marriage checkup to make sure they are free of any genetic or infectious and blood transmitted diseases for the sake of their Children.
- 18.10 Provide the necessary support to Children living in difficult conditions, such as disputed children, street and displaced Children, victims of disasters and wars, and in a manner that contributes to relieve their suffering by providing financial, sheltering, therapeutic, educational, and rehabilitation support according to the requirements of each case. Street or displaced children – lacking family support or custody - who are subjected to negligence and investigations prove they are suffering from mental or psychological illnesses, shall be admitted for treatment in one of the specialized governmental hospitals based on a letter of approval from the Ministry of Social Affairs or the police department. In this case, the police department must notify the Ministry of Social Affairs of the case to visit and follow up.
- 18.11 Relevant health Authorities shall take appropriate measures to:
- a) Diminish infant and Child mortality.
 - b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to mothers and children.
 - c) To combat childhood disease and ensure the free provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care in governmental hospitals and health centers.
 - d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers, provision of periodic medical screening examination for the mother and child to ensure their safety from genetic and serious diseases and ensure the healthy development of the Child.
 - e) Raise health education awareness of all segments of society through different communication channels, schools, educational institutes, and educate parents with the basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents



- f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.
 - g) Take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.
- 18.12 All media shall play a constructive and active role in raising awareness in the field of prevention and health guidance, particularly with respect to the areas of child health and nutrition, the benefits of breastfeeding, prevention of diseases and accidents and the harm caused by smoking and energy drinks.
- 18.13 Free Education is a right for all children in the state schools, and the educational responsibility of the child shall be rest with the parent having custody or foster guardians or whoever takes his place, and in the interest of the Child, the Relevant Authorities shall provide the Child with education appropriate for his age, and in particular:
- A. Make primary education compulsory and available free to all, and the child shall not be deprived of his right to education.
 - B. Encourage the development of different forms of education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and offer financial assistance in case of need.
 - C. Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.
 - D. Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children and their guardians.
 - E. Taking all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the relevant Laws, regulations, and agreements in force in the Kingdom.
 - F. Make higher education accessible to all based on capacity by every appropriate means
 - G. The education of the Child shall be directed to:
 - 1) The development of respect for his religion, cultural identity, language, and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living,
 - 2) The development of the child's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.
 - 3) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with relevant Laws, regulations and agreements in force in the Kingdom.
 - 4) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality and justice.
- 18.14 The Ministry of Health shall work on developing its capacities in the field of preventive, curative and mental healthcare as well as health guidance related to the health, nutrition, and protection of the child.



- 18.15 The Relevant Authorities shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the Child benefit from social security – in case needed, including social insurance, in accordance with the Laws and Regulations in force in the Kingdom.
- 18.16 The Relevant Authorities shall recognize the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.
- 18.17 The Ministry of Education and its affiliated departments shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity, protect child rights and prevent his abuse or negligence.
- 18.18 Pay more attention to child education, to ensure the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the Kingdom and facilitate access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, consideration shall be addressed to the needs of children based in remote areas.
- 18.19 School departments, educational institutions, commercial markets and centers, Children's playgrounds, public parks, and recreational places shall take whatever necessary precautions to secure the Child protection from accidents injuries in general, and especially vehicle accidents. Precautions shall include displaying guiding signboards, activating the role of supervisors and children escorts, and taking all necessary precautions in that matter.
- 18.20 In case escorting a child in a vehicle, the child shall be seated in the back seats with a fasten belt. A baby car seat shall be used for children under the age of three.
- 18.21 The Child shall have the right to a safe, healthy, clean environment, and all effective and appropriate measures shall be taken with a view to abolish traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children. The Child shall be protected from environmental pollution, and this will be considered when building or renting schools. Children shall be encouraged to respect the natural environment and its preservation.
- 18.22 Every student shall have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.



18.23 The disabled child under special circumstances shall have the right to education, training, and vocational rehabilitation at the same schools, institutes, and training centers available to non- disabled children, except in exceptional cases resulting from the nature and degree of disability. In such exceptional cases, the child shall have the right to education and training in classes, schools, institutions, or special training centers linked to the regular education, as the case may be. Disabled children will be provided by comprehensive education or training program, whatever their age or degree of disability through qualified and competent staff.

18.24 The Relevant Authorities shall encourage the establishment of clubs to ensure social, sporting, and recreational care for children, by filling their leisure time with sound educational methods and schemes, aiming at achieving the following objectives:

1. Ensure social and educational care for children during their leisure time, their holidays, as well as before and after school days.
2. Complement the role of the family and school vis-à-vis the child and assist working mothers to protect children from physical and mental neglect and from being exposed to delinquency.
3. Ensure the full development of the child whether physical, mental, and spiritual to acquire new experiences and skills in a manner consistent with his evolving capacities opportunities
4. Assist children in developing their assimilation capacities in schools.
5. Strengthen the bonds between the club and the families of children.
6. Raise the awareness of the child's family and provide it with suitable information on the education and upbringing of children according to sound educational methods and schemes.



Article (19):

Concerned Authorities shall set the health, educational, pedagogical, psychological, and social programs necessary for the rehabilitation of a Child who has been subjected to an incident of abuse or negligence.

- 19.1 All Relevant Authorities, in particular the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health, shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a victim of: any form of child neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect, and dignity of the child.
- 19.2 Take all measures to provide the necessary rehabilitation to the child subjected to abuse and to his/her family as well, including providing psychological treatment, rehabilitation, instructional and educational courses, social skills enhancement sessions, child self-protection skills, and treatment of addiction of the parents or the caretaker if necessary, to ensure the child re-integration with his family.
- 19.3 The health, psychological, social, economic and interactive conditions of cases of Child abuse, negligence and mishandling shall be evaluated, and appropriate procedure are taken to provide the child with necessary care. The child's condition shall be followed up regularly if he/she is handed over to the parents or the caregiver.



Article (20):

The Relevant Authorities shall establish comprehensive quality standards for locally manufactured and imported child toys, to conform to health, environmental and cultural Specifications and standards, safety measures, and to Shari'a controls.

- 20.1 Locally manufactured or imported children toys shall be made of durable and corrosion-resistant materials and conform to Saudi and Gulf standard specifications in terms of general safety requirements, site and installation requirements, examination and maintenance requirements.
- 20.2 It is necessary to ensure that Children' toys are free of any toxic chemicals harmful to the health and safety of the child, made of strong materials that bear the movement of children, operate in smooth movements, and achieve safety conditions.
- 20.3 The toys or parts thereof should be unbreakable and strong enough to withstand chewing, does not have sharp ends or rough edges that could harm the child.
- 20.4 Toys must be made of flame resistant or flame-retardant fabrics, coated with non-toxic paints, and shall not release irritating or toxic materials. Plastic toys should look sturdy enough to withstand high temperatures.
- 20.5 The toys batteries should not be easily accessible to children or located in a visible place, and the toys should not depend on a direct power source, or its connectivity to an electricity source is a condition to play.
- 20.6 Whenever that is possible, Children's Games/toys should be a source of learning.
- 20.7 Games/toys shall not include any violation to the provisions of Islamic Sharia.
- 20.8 It is mandatory to provide a user manual for each game/toy including safety guidelines and instruction for safe usage, cleaning before using, storing, minimum age of the user, possible dangers and other advices to secure the child safety. The user manual shall be very explicit, clear and in Arabic language, and English instructions may be also added. The manual shall include simple, short and common every day used sentences.



Article (21):

The provisions and procedures stipulated in this law shall not prejudice to the following:

- 1. Obligations of other stakeholders, each according to its jurisdiction.**
- 2. Any provision ensuring better protection for the child stipulated in another law or an international convention to which the Kingdom is party.**

21.1 Child protection related public and private authorities shall continue providing protection services and assistance in accordance with its governing provisions in a manner that achieves the goals of the law and its executive Regulations and without conflicting it.

21.2 Provisions and procedures stipulated in this Law and its executive regulations shall not prejudice any more favorable right of child protection in another law or an international convention to which the Kingdom is party.



Chapter V

Reporting and considering the violation of the law and its Regulations and the time of its implementation

Article (22):

1. Anyone who becomes aware of a case of abuse and negligence shall immediately notify the Competent Authorities.
2. The Competent Authorities shall facilitate the procedures of reporting cases of abuse and negligence, especially the notification received from Children.
3. The Regulations specify the procedures of reporting of cases of abuse and negligence and how to deal with the reports.

22.1 Anyone who becomes aware of a case of violation of the provisions of the Law and its executive Regulations, especially Cases of abuse or negligence against a Child, shall inform the Competent Authorities immediately, and the Competent Authorities is obliged to facilitate the reporting procedures.

22.2 Every public or private entity shall be obliged to inform the Ministry of Social Affairs or the police station of any case of violation of the provisions of the Law and its executive Regulations, especially cases of Child abuse or negligence immediately upon receiving the notification or the Report of abuse.

22.3 If the case of abuse requires urgent intervention, the center shall immediately report such case to the police station and the public prosecution, and shall maintain the confidentiality of the identity of the person reporting the case.

22.4 In the event that an employee reports a case of abuse of a child, the workplace shall be liable for the consequences of reluctance or failure to report the case in the appropriate time. Such liability extends to the natural persons, representing the named employer at the time of occurrence of abuse. Being no longer its representatives at the time of accountability -for any reason whatsoever - shall not negate or mitigate their liability.

22.5 In the event that a school or an educational institution is aware of a case of abuse or negligence against a Child, or the deprive of the child of any of his/her rights, and the failure of the educational institution to reach an appropriate solution for the case, the school administration or its representative shall notify the Competent Authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs through a report of the case. The school or the educational institution shall also facilitate the access of the Ministry representative to meet the child and follow up on his/her case. In cases of serious abuse or negligence, the Police authorities shall also be informed. In all cases, the education directorates and schools shall develop an appropriate mechanism to provide the Ministry of Social Affairs with sound statistics of cases of child abuse or negligence, including cases that had been resolved or handles by them amicably.



- 22.6 In the event that a healthcare authority is aware of a case of abuse or negligence against a Child, or the deprive of the child of any of his rights, the healthcare authority shall provide the necessary treatment and medical care for the case, and notify the Competent Authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs through a medical report of the case. The healthcare authority shall also facilitate the access of the Ministry representative to meet the child and follow up on his/her case. In cases of serious abuse or negligence, the Police authorities shall also be informed. In all cases, the healthcare authority shall develop an appropriate mechanism to provide the Ministry of Social Affairs with sound statistics of cases of child abuse or negligence, including cases that had been resolved or handles by them amicably.
- 22.7 The Receiving Communications Center (helpline) shall receive complaints of violating child Law provisions and its executive regulation, especially cases of abuse or negligence kingdom wide from victims, relevant security authorities, and other governmental or private entities. The center shall document the complaint, after ascertaining the report and assessing the case, verify the identity of the reporter if possible, review the report attachments if any. Anonymous reports shall not be accepted.
- 22.8 The Center shall refer the complaint to the nearest Social Protection Unit to the victim's location, to take necessary action to deal with the abuse.
- 22.9 The Center shall use and maintain forms and records to regulate incoming calls and will use an electronic documentation system for all incoming reports of abuse of children as well.
- 22.10 The Center shall record and document incoming calls on the number assigned to the Reporting, and maintains its confidentiality.
- 22.11 The Center shall conduct periodic reports on the received complaints related to child harm, and shall classify according to the type of violation, abuse, severity, gender of the victim and case reporter, and number of handled cases.
- 22.12 Without prejudice to the duties and responsibilities of the Receiving Communications Center, the Ministry Directorate of Social Protection shall receive reports of domestic violence and abuse cases from governmental and civil entities, and refer to the competent Social Protection Unit to investigate and handle, or refer to the directorate for its recommendation thereof.
- 22.13 It is not permissible to disclose the identity of reporter of the violation, case of Abuse or Negligence except with his consent and only in the following cases:
- a. If the Social Protection Unit deems that the disclosure of the identity of a person reporting a case is necessary for substantial reasons determined by the unit, provided that this is within the minimal limits.



- b. The Social Protection Unit shall not reveal the identity of a person who reports abuse to the official authorities except upon receiving a formal justified request from a judicial body. The requesting entity shall maintain the confidentiality of the identity of the reporting person, and shall not compromise in its disclosure. Anyone who violates this provision shall be held responsible for this disclosure.
- 22.14 Any person who reports a case of violation of the provisions of the Law or its Regulations or a case of abuse or negligence is considered a bona fide individual unless there is a proof or evidence to the contrary otherwise.
- 22.15 If it is proved that the report of abuse is false, the aggrieved person or any other party of interest may file a complaint with the competent court according to the applicable Laws without prejudice of the right of the victim to claim compensation. The burden of proof of bad faith shall rest on the plaintiff.
- 22.16 Immediately handle the report of harm or negligence of the child by communicating with the case, assess its degree of seriousness, conduct a medical evaluation for the victim if necessary, and take all other necessary and appropriate procedures to deal with the case. Report acceptance and case handling shall not require the consent of the guardian or his equivalent.
- 22.17 When handling a case of abuse or negligence, the Social Protection Units shall gradually take the necessary procedures to deal with the case, priority shall be given to preventive and counseling measures, and to corrective measure between parties of the case to the interest of the Child.
- 22.18 If the Social Protection Unit assumes that the interest of the child requires only providing psychological, family and social guidance and counselling, the unit shall ensure that this assistance will not result in more severe harms to the child, by taking the necessary actions to secure his/her safety.
- 2.19 The Social Protection Unit shall provide the child with the necessary social and health care including medical and psychological treatment, and rehabilitation programs. The support shall cover any related party to the case of negligence or abuse or other violation of the provisions of the law or its Regulations, by referral to the relevant medical or other support providers. The Ministry shall notify the Governor, if the treatment or other support required for the abused parties is rejected by the hospital or relevant entity to ensure that the required assistance shall be provided.
- 2.20 In cases of non-serious negligence or abuse, the Social Protection Units may keep the child with his family and commit the parent or his representative to provide the child with the necessary protection. The child will be enabled to communicate with the Social Protection Center, and the Center's specialists will also be enabled to contact the child and visit him anytime for follow up, whenever needed. A commitment will be taken from the source of harm or negligence to desist all kinds of abuse or negligence, ensure providing the child with his legitimate rights, and perform his duties or responsibilities in providing



basic needs. The parent will be subject to disciplinary actions in case of violation of any of the mentioned commitments thereof.

- 2.21 If the abuser refuses to report to the unit's premises or to the Social Protection Home, or respond to its instructions, the unit shall seek the security authorities' assistance to summon the abuser to its headquarters to investigate the submitted complaint. This procedure shall be applied to any of the parties of the case of child abuse, negligence violating the Unit's orders and instructions.
- 2.22 The case of abuse or negligence is considered serious if it results in a clear physical harm to the child that request immediate intervention to remove the causes, or prevent its occurrence, or if the act of abuse or negligence is proved by a Medical Report. It shall be also considered serious if it poses a greater or continuous threat to the life of the child or his safety or health, and in such cases the governor or the relevant security authorities should be notified.
- 22.23 If it appears to the Social Protection Center that the case is serious, the police station and other relevant security authorities shall be notified and requested to take all necessary measures to deal with such case in accordance with its degree of seriousness.
- 22.24 The abused Child shall be interviewed by the competent staff of the Social Protection Center/Unit, who will notify him with the recommended appropriate actions and procedures – that falls in the jurisdiction of the Ministry - for his approval. In case the child refuses shelter, he/she shall be informed that the complaint will be followed up, and that appropriate actions will be taken against the aggressor. The Social Protection Center/Unit may decide sheltering the child without his/her consent if the abuse still poses a threat to his/her life, and if his/her hosting by any of his/her trustworthy relative was not feasible.
- 22.25 The abused child shall be interviewed in the presence of a psychologist or a social specialist of the Social Protection Unit. The child shall be asked in a manner that commensurate with his/her age, avoiding any threats that might intimidate him/her or affect his/her will. The child can be questioned in privet and ~~alone~~ if accompanied with any of his/her relatives, if his/her interest requires it.
- 22.26 If the Child is abused or neglected by one of his/her separated parents, and the child condition can't tolerate keeping him/her with the abusing parent, the Social Protection Unit -after evaluating the case and determining the best interest of the Child -may order to immediately hand over the child to his/her other parent, or temporarily to one of his/her trustworthy relatives who can provide the necessary care for the child until the case is rectified. A child custody statement in favor of the child shall not preclude the Social Protection Unit decision, and the competent court shall be immediately informed of the case by a written report to take whatever action it deems necessary to



reconsider the custodian's right to custody. In all cases, objection to this procedure shall be referred to judiciary.

22/27 The Child shall be sheltered or hosted according to the following conditions:

- A. Sheltering or hosting is limited to children under the age of eighteen.
- B. If the case was subject to an incident of abuse or negligence specified in the Child Protection Law and its executive regulations, and it is not feasible to host him/her by relatives or a Foster Family.
- C. The Sheltering of abused case shall not require the consent of the guardian.
- D. The Sheltering period is three days and may be extended for a period not to exceed two months. If the case requires a longer period of treatment, sheltering can be extended for another period, with the approval of the competent Deputy Minister.

22.28 When the sheltering or hosting of the case is approved, the Social Protection Unit shall take the following actions:

- A. Confirm with the Police station if a report of absence or escape is submitted against the child. In all events, the case will not be transferred to the detention observation center unless accused of a crime that requires arrest, or in case an indictment is issued against the case by an investigating authority, or if a court order of arrest is issued against the case.
- B. Carry out the necessary medical evaluation of the abused child, and if not possible in a timely manner, the child shall be temporarily hosted in one of designated protection homes until medical assessment is done and the case safety is confirmed.
- C. If the case suffers from a chronic psychological illness, it is referred to one of the psychiatric hospitals or centers for treatment. The issue shall be directly referred to the Governor, if treatment of said case was declined by the hospital.
- D. The Child and his guardian shall be notified that the hosting is temporary until the child's problem is solved, and a suitable alternative is agreed regarding removing the causes of abuse or the return of the child to his/her family, after taking necessary actions to eliminate the abuse or neglect. The child will be enabled to continue school during his/her hosting or sheltering, and in all cases, the child shall not be prevented from communicating with his family, under the supervision and follow-up of the Protection Unit.
- E. The sheltered/ hosted child cases shall not be allowed to leave the sheltering house except after conducting a social survey of his case that ensures that his dismissal will not poses a threat to his life or his safety and after coordinating with the family members to host him. The case will be re-admitted to the hospitality home in case of occurrence of any threat to her life or her safety. The Unit will continue communication with the child's family to receive the child, and if necessary, the support of the Reconciliation committee may be sought.



- 22.29 The Hospitality Home will allow the child – if his ages permits - free entrance and exit during his/her sheltering period with supervisors or under their supervision, provided that it will not result in any harm to the child. The child will be allowed to attend his school classes, share in any recreational or athletic activity, and go shopping to fulfil his/her basic personal needs. The Protection Unit may also permit the child participation in any cultural and entertainment events or activities outside hospitality home premises, provided the complete compliance with relevant instructions of the Social Protection Unit in this regard. Free Exit and entrance for such purposes will be in accordance to the regulations of the Social Protection Unit. The Unit will immediately inform the security authorities of the Child's absence or no show up for disclaimer of responsibility. The Unit will also notify the Child's family of his/her absence if justified. The mentioned absence will not preclude the sheltering of the child again – after conducting the necessary investigation regarding the absence incident and take necessary measure to prevent its repetition.
- 22.30 In the event that the violation or the incident of abuse is committed against a resident of one of the Ministry sheltering homes, or any other sheltering home supervised by the Ministry, the Ministry shall conduct an internal investigation, and notify the police station of the case, to take measures within its competence, and to follow up the report, without prejudice to the right of the child or his/her parents to claim indemnification.
- 22.31 The Ministry shall coordinate with the Ministry of Interior to provide the necessary security measures for the premises of Social Protection Units, guesthouses and other facilities affiliated with the Ministry designated for child protection, and requires security as Protecting from Abuse or negligence service providers.
- 22.32 The police station and other competent security Authorities are obliged to respond immediately to the request of the Social Protection Unit to enable their entrance to the location of abuse, and ensure their safety.
- 22.33 The Social Protection Unit specialists may move to the place where the incident of abuse has occurred, if the treatment of the case requires; and in all cases, the police station and other competent authorities are obliged to summon the abuse parties to the Social Protection Unit premises, at the request of the Protection unit authorities.
- 22.34 In case the handling a case of abuse requires urgent access to the place where the incident of abuse has occurred; the Social Protection Center/Unit shall immediately notify the competent security authorities to facilitate their entrance to the place, ensure the safety of the victim during investigation of the case. The security authorities shall enable the entrance of the Social Protection Center specialists to the location of abuse- in case refused by the occupants, ensure their safety, and avoid involving them in the raids or intrusions.



Article (23)

- 1. Subject to the provisions stated in paragraph (3) of Article (22) of this Law, the Investigation and Public Prosecution Authorities are responsible for investigating violations of the provisions of this Law and filing the case before the competent court.**
 - 2. Subject to provisions of other relevant laws, the competent court shall consider violations of the provisions of this Law and determine the appropriate punishment against the violator.**
- 23.1 The Ministry of Social Affairs and Police Departments shall refer cases of Child Abuse, negligence and other violations to the provisions of this Law and its Executive Regulation, and further to the Investigation and Public Prosecution Authorities if investigation is deemed necessary.
- 23.2 The Investigation and Public Prosecution Authorities shall investigate all cases related to Children, whether accused or abused, and shall request a report from the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the child condition, and the necessary related actions. The case – including a copy of the report - will be referred to the competent court, if the Investigation Department decides not to close the case in accordance to law.
- 23.3 Every child accused of committing any violation of laws and orders shall be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth and reinforces his self-respect, considering the child's age and the desirability of his/her reintegration in community.
- 23.4 The Child shall be presumed innocent during investigation and trial until proved guilty according to Law.
- 23.5 The Child shall be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, in the presence of his/her parents, his representative or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his defense.
- 23.6 The Child shall benefit from the Saudi juvenile justice proceedings and the child jurisdiction system to his interest, taking into consideration the child age or situation and condition.
- 23.7 Detention and Investigation Authorities shall take into consideration the implementation of laws and orders that set a minimum age for criminal accountability of the Child, hence the Child will not be criminally accused if he/she commits what requires his/her incrimination as long as she/he didn't reach the accountability age stipulated in those laws and instructions.
- 23.8 The competent court, when considering violations of the provisions of this Law and its Executive Regulation, shall take into consideration the provision of the Law of protection from Abuse and its Executive Regulation in order to decide the appropriate punishment against the violator.



- 23.9 Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, provided that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected.
- 23.10 In the event that the Child is placed in one of the shelters or social welfare homes, a variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counselling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programs and other alternatives of institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and offence.
- 23.11 Presence of a social worker from the Social Protection Unit with the child during the Investigation proceeding is preferable, if possible.



Article (24):

The Minister of Social Affairs shall issue the Regulation within (ninety) days from the date of publication of this Law in the Official Gazette, following the coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Human Rights Commission and other relevant Authorities, each Ministry in its authorities, and shall be enforce from the date of implementation of this Law.

- 24.1 The Minister of Social Affairs shall issue executive rules, controlling measures or mechanisms necessary to the implementation of these Regulations or any of its articles.

- 24.2 The Competent department at the Ministry shall review and evaluate the implementation of the provisions of these Regulations on a periodic basis, every two years from the date of its issuance or whenever the need arises and as requested and recommended by the Relevant Authorities, and shall present to the Minister of Social Affairs whatever proposals it deems appropriate to take, what he deems necessary

Article (25):

This Law shall enter into force (ninety) days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

- 25.1 The provisions of these Regulations shall be effective as of the date of their promulgation.

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