

Federal Decree Law No. (29) of 2020
Amending Certain Provisions of the Federal Law No. (28) of 2005
Concerning Personal Status

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

- Pursuant to the perusal of the Constitution;
- The Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 On the Mandates of Ministries and Powers of Ministers, as amended;
- The Federal Decree Law No. (5) of 1985 on Civil Code, as amended;
- The Federal Law No. (10) of 1992 On the Evidence Code, as amended;
- The Federal Law No. (11) of 1992 On the Civil Procedures Code, as amended;
- The Federal Law No. (28) of 2005 on Personal Status, as amended;
- In accordance with the proposals of the Minister of justice and as approved by the Council of Ministers,

We do hereby enact the following Decree by Law:

Article One

Article (1) of the Federal Law No. (28) of 2005 on Personal Status, as amended, shall be replaced as follows:

Article (1)

1. The provisions of this Law shall apply to all events occurring subsequent to its effectiveness date. It shall retrospectively apply to divorce attestations and divorce lawsuits with no final judgements yet.
2. The provisions of this Law shall apply to all UAE nationals unless non-Muslims among them have their own provisions applicable to their own religion and sect.
3. The provisions of this Law shall apply to non-UAE nationals unless they adhere to their native laws, subject to the provisions of Articles (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (27) and (28) of the Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 on Civil Code.

Article Two

Each Emirate may create a specific registry named “Non-UAE National Wills”. The competent authority in the respective Emirate shall issue a resolution determining the format, data, procedures, registration controls and entry amendment controls of such registry.

Article Three

Any other provisions contradicting the provisions of this Decree Law shall be null and void.

Article Four

This Decree by Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force on the next day after its publishing date.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi:

Date: 10 Safar 1442 H.

Corresponding to 27 September 2020