

Law No. (11) of 2004

With respect to Premarital Screening

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution,

Law No. (3) of 1975 with respect to Public Health, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (14) of 1977 with respect to Health Precautions to Prevent Infectious Diseases,

Legislative Decree No. (2) of 1987 with respect to the Practice of Non-physicians and Pharmacists of Allied Medical Professions,

Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1989 with respect to the Practice of Medical and Dental Profession,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives approved the following law, which we ratified and promulgated:

Article (1)

In applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

Ministry: The Ministry of Health.

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Medical Screening: Premarital medical screening, which includes examination of some genetic, infectious and other diseases to be determined by a decision passed by the Minister.

Article (2)

The Ministry, in coordination with any relevant authority, shall undertake the implementation of the following:

A- Establishing regulations and guidelines which enable it to provide its services easily, efficiently and in complete confidentiality in the field of medical screening.

B - Establishing the necessary programs to raise awareness, direct and guide the intended spouses to the importance of undertaking the medical screening.

C - Providing the necessary medical facilities to treat the potentially curable diseases that may affect reproductive health in the future.

Article (3)

An intended spouse who is a citizen of the Kingdom of Bahrain shall undertake, regardless of the nationality of the other spouse, that each of the contracting parties submit to the medical screening procedures, in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures specified by a decision of the Minister.

Article (4)

The physicians specialized in undertaking the medical screening shall - based on the results of the medical screening - provide assistance, advice and guidance to the intended spouses.

Article (5)

Those responsible with concluding marriage contracts in the Kingdom of Bahrain shall ensure that the parties to the contract have undergone a medical screening prior to their marriage by reviewing the certificate attesting that, issued by or approved by the ministry, and shall verify the number and date of this certificate in the Contract.

Article (6)

Without prejudice to a more severe punishment stipulated in the Penal Code, or any other law, a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars shall be imposed on anyone who violates the provisions of Articles (3) and (5) of this Law.

Article (7)

The Minister shall issue the regulations and decisions necessary to implement the provisions of this Law within six months from the date of its implementation.

Article (8)

The ministers – each within his jurisdiction – shall implement the provisions of this Law and it shall enter into force from the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain
Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued in Riffa Palace:

On: 4 Jumada I 1425 AH