

**Law No. (18) of 2006**  
**with respect to Social Security**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution,

Law No. (13) of 1975 with respect to Pension for Government Employees,  
as amended,

Labor Law in the Private Sector promulgated by Legislative Decree No.  
(23) of 1976, as amended,

Social Insurance Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (24) of  
1976, as amended,

Legislative Decree No. (39) of 2002 with respect to the General Budget,  
Royal Order No. (25) of 2005 establishing the Orphan Custody  
Committee,

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

**Article One**

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:

**1- The Ministry:**

Ministry of Social Development.

**2- The Minister:**

Minister of Social Development.

**3- Social Security:**

It is the social assistance provided by the State to citizens of individuals  
and families from the categories stipulated for in this Law, with the aim of  
helping them secure the minimum basic requirements for life.

**4– Social assistance:**

Monetary or in-kind benefits that are to be granted to any family or individual in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**5– Family:**

Each group comprising of a husband and wife or wives, and their children, who depend upon the head of household for their livelihood.

**6– Child:**

Every male or female who has not exceeded the age of eighteen years, or who has exceeded such age and has no dependents or sufficient funds to rely upon, provided that proof of continuing education until the first university degree is obtained.

**7– Widow:**

Every woman who has not exceeded the age of sixty whose Bahraini husband has passed away and has not remarried and lacks a capable breadwinner obligated to financially support her and lacks sufficient funds to maintain her livelihood, whether she has children or not, and that includes the Bahraini woman whose foreign husband has passed away.

**8– Divorcee:**

Every woman who has not exceeded the age of sixty who has been divorced by her Bahraini husband and has not remarried, and has no capable breadwinner obligated to financially support her and lacks sufficient funds to maintain her livelihood, whether she has children or not, and that includes the Bahraini woman who has been divorced by her foreign husband.

**9– Abandoned:**

Every woman who has not exceeded the age of sixty and is legally proven that her Bahraini husband has abandoned her and has no capable breadwinner who is obligated to financially support her and lacks sufficient funds to maintain her livelihood, whether she has children or not, and this

includes the Bahraini woman who has been abandoned by her foreign husband.

**10– The prisoner's family:**

Every family whose sole breadwinner has been issued a final judgement restricting his freedom for a period exceeding one month has been executed against him and the family lacks sufficient funds to maintain their livelihood.

**11– Unmarried girl:**

Every female who has reached the age of eighteen and has not exceeded the age of sixty who has not been married and neither has she got a capable breadwinner who is obligated to financially support her nor has she got sufficient funds to maintain her livelihood.

**12– Orphan:**

Anyone whose father passes away and neither has a family able to financially support him nor has sufficient funds to rely upon to maintain his livelihood, in such case he is considered to be an orphan of unknown parents or fathers, taking into account the provision of paragraph (6) of this Article.

**13– Unable to work:**

Every individual who has been diagnosed with a disease which prevents him, in whole or in part, from earning a living for himself or his dependent family, who has not exceeded the age of sixty and has no family who is obligated to financially support him and lacks sufficient funds to maintain his livelihood.

**14– Disabled:**

Every person who has a disability through which it is proven by a medical report that the disabled needs special care before reaching the working age, or that such disability prevents him completely or partially upon reaching the working age from earning a living for himself or his family,

and in either case, he has no capable breadwinner who is obligated to financially support him and lacks sufficient funds to maintain his livelihood.

### **15- The Elderly**

Everyone over the age of sixty and neither have capable breadwinner who is obligated to financially support them nor have sufficient funds to maintain their livelihood.

### **Article Two**

A fund called "Social Security Fund" shall be established under the Ministry, and all the amounts allocated to cover the disbursements of social assistance stipulated for in this Law shall be deposited, and its revenues shall consist of the following:

- 1- The amounts allocated to the Fund in the general budget for the purpose of social assistance.
- 2- Savings made from the previous fiscal year.
- 3- Donations, gifts and bequests received by the Fund from entities and individuals.
- 4- The return on the investment of the Fund's monies.

A decision shall be issued by the Minister to the Fund's Articles of Association.

### **Article Three**

Social assistance in accordance with the provisions of this Law is for Bahraini families and individuals residing in the Kingdom of Bahrain who meet the conditions, from the following categories:

- 1- Widows.
- 2- Divorced women.
- 3- Abandoned women
- 4- The prisoners' family.
- 5- The Unmarried girl.
- 6- Orphans
- 7- People with disabilities and those unable to work.

8– The elderly.

9– The child.

#### **Article Four**

A decision by the Minister shall determine the solutions to be followed in cases of overlap between some of the categories of beneficiaries –if any– and cases of allocation on families or individuals. It also determines the benefits in–kind granted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

#### **Article Five**

The social assistance stipulated for in this Law shall be spent within the framework of the plan prepared by the Ministry and within the limits of the financial allocations allocated for it.

#### **Article Six**

To be eligible for social assistance in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the followings are required:

- A– The beneficiary of the social assistance should not have a close relative who is legally obligated to financially support them.
- B– Proving with social research that the total monthly income of a social assistance applicant is less than the minimum necessary to provide basic life requirements, in which case the value of social assistance is complementary to the income until it becomes sufficient to provide these requirements.
- C– That the case for the disbursement of social assistance is established in accordance with official documents approved by the competent governmental authorities.

#### **Article Seven**

1– It is not permissible to combine social assistance due in accordance with this Law with pensions due in accordance with any other law, insurance of all kinds, or assistance provided by the Kingdom unless the pensions or insurance are less than the assistance due in accordance with its provisions.

2- Benefitting from social assistance is excluded in accordance with this Law if the elderly or disabled applicant resides in a social or health care home unless research proves that the applicant is in need of such assistance if their needs cannot be provided in such homes.

### **Article Eight**

The Minister shall issue a decision on the conditions, circumstances and procedures for submitting a request for social assistance, examining it, assessing the value and duration of assistance, and grieving to the Minister regarding its assessment, disbursement, amendment and cancellation.

### **Article Nine<sup>1</sup>**

In all cases, social assistance shall not be less than seventy dinars per person per month, one hundred and twenty dinars for a family of two individuals, and twenty five dinars for each member of the family whose number exceeds that.

### **Article Ten**

The Ministry of Health undertakes the medical examination to determine the disability, partial or total disability stipulated for in this Law, and grievances against the medical examination decisions are taken by one of the specialized medical committees in the Ministry of Health.

### **Article Eleven**

The beneficiary of social assistance, or his legal representative, shall inform the Ministry of any change in the social, economic, or health status of himself or his family if such change requires modification or cancellation of the assistance. In the event of a permanent change of residence, the Ministry must be informed of such change within fifteen days from the date of the change.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by Law No. (18) of 2013 amending Article Nine of Law No. (18) of 2006 with respect to Social Security.

### **Article Twelve**

The Ministry conducts a comprehensive periodic tracking of the conditions of the owners of social assistance and submits reports on them to the Minister, to issue a decision to continue allocating, modifying, or canceling the assistance according to the circumstances, and the amendment or cancellation shall take effect from the beginning of the month following the date that the change has occurred.

### **Article Thirteen**

Without prejudice to the criminal responsibility, the right to social assistance shall be forfeited and the Ministry shall recover what was unlawfully allocated from it if the beneficiary of the assistance commits one of the following acts:

- 1– Provide incorrect statements in the request for social assistance, or when conducting social research or follow-up research, which led to providing the assistance, its increase, or its continued unlawful allocation.
- 2– Impersonating others upon receiving the prescribed social assistance.
- 3– Falsification of an official document or the use of a forged document which led to providing the assistance, its increase or its continued unlawful allocation.
- 4– Modifying the information on the social assistance exchange card, or performing any erasure or scraping in it.

### **Article Fourteen**

The application of this Law is without prejudice to the care given by the Orphans Guarantee Committee of the Royal Court of Orphans and Widows from the financial allocations allocated to it, in coordination with the Ministry.

### **Article Fifteen**

The Minister shall issue the necessary regulations and decisions to implement the provisions of this Law.

### **Article Sixteen**

Ministers – each within his jurisdiction – shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force three months after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa Palace:

Date: 2 Jumada I 1427 AH

Corresponding to 29 May 2006