**Disclaimer: The official version of the law and any amendments thereto is published in Arabic in the Official Gazette. This version of the law, including amendments thereto, is provided for guidance and easy reference purposes. The Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission does not accept any liability for any discrepancy between this version and the official version as published in the Official Gazette and / or any inaccuracy or errors in the translation.**

**For any corrections, remarks, or suggestions, kindly contact us on translate@lloc.gov.bh**

**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Legislative Decree No. (9) of 1984 regarding the Central Population Registry**

We, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa – Emir of the State of Bahrain

Having reviewed the Legislative Decree No. (6) of 1970 regarding the Regulation of the Registration of Births and Deaths Law;

Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1977 regarding the Statistics and Census;

Decree No. (11) of 1977 Affiliating the Department of Statistics to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers;

And Decree No. (5) of 1983 regarding the Renaming of the Department of Statistics;

And upon the submission of the Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article -1-**

Demographic information shall mean: Individual data and civil incidents for each individual and individual data shall be the characteristics that distinguish each individual, such as the name, date of its change, address, place and date of birth, gender, religion, nationality, marital status, personal numbers of parents, husband or wife, scientific and specialized qualification, and position. Civil incidents are elements of an individual's civil status, such as birth, marriage, divorce, change of nationality, change of residence permit, and death. It shall be permissible, by a decision of the Prime Minister, for any other demographic information to be added.

**Article -2-**

The Central Statistics Organization shall establish a system called the "Central Population Registry" in order to prove the demographic information of all Bahraini and non-Bahraini individuals whose residence exceeds thirty days. The administration shall establish a special register for non-Bahrainis who are not covered by the provision of this Article.

Any person subject to the provisions of this Law shall register in the Central Population Registry in accordance with what the Implementing Regulation determines.

**Article -3-**

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs shall supervise the administrative, financial, and technical affairs of the Central Population Registry System and shall issue the necessary decisions to regulate the work flow. He shall be able to delegate to the President of the Central Statistics Organization some of his competences stipulated in this Article.

**Article -4-**

The Central Population Registry shall have a permanent committee formed as follows:

1- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. President

2- President of the Central Statistics Organization

3- Representative from the Ministry of Health.

4- Representative of the Ministry of Interior. Members

5- Representative from the Ministry of State for Legal Affairs.

6- Representative from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Each authority shall be responsible for the designation of its representative in the committee, whose grade shall not be below the rank of a Director.

The nomination of the members of the committee and the duration of their membership, as well as the system of work in it, shall be issued by a decision of the Prime Minister.

**Article -5-**

The permanent committee provided for in the preceding Article shall have the following competences:

a- Drawing up the general policy of the Central Population Registry.

b- Proposing draft laws, decisions, and regulations for the Central Population Registry System.

c- Following up on the practical application of the Central Population Registry System.

d- Supervising the collection of demographic information of individuals.

**Article -6-**

The permanent committee, in its capacity as the competent authority to supervise the collection of demographic information in the State, shall, through its President, contact governmental and non-governmental authorities in order to obtain demographic information for individuals.

**Article -7-**

All demographic information recorded in the Central Population Registry System shall be considered confidential and shall not be accessed, published, or used except in the cases stipulated in the Law.

**Article -8-**

It shall not be permissible for any governmental or non-governmental entity to publish by any means of publication or media publications or data containing demographic information relating to the Central Population Registry System except after obtaining a licence to do so from the permanent committee.

The licence shall specify what shall be published and the dates and methods of such publication.

**Article -9-**

Each individual registered in the Central Population Registry System shall have two addresses. The first shall be residential, which is the place where the individual usually resides, including the apartment number, the building or shop, the name or number of the street, road or corridor, the name of the city, or village, the complex number, and the second shall be postal, if any, which is usually used in correspondence.

The address of the absent or missing person shall be the address of his legal representative, and the address of the minor or the detainee shall be the address of the person with whom he resides.

**Article -10-**

The address registered in the Central Population Registry System shall be the one approved in all transactions in which the address of the individual shall be proven.

**Article -11-**

In the event of an amendment in the place of residence or address that would affect the address registered in the Central Population Registry System, the registered individual shall inform the Central Statistics Organization directly or through one of the authorities authorized by the permanent committee within fifteen days from the date of the amendment.

**Article -12-**

Each individual registered in the Central Population Registry System shall have a fixed number called (personal number). Government authorities and others shall record the personal number in all transactions, registers, and files of individuals.

**Article -13-**

Individuals shall be identified in the Central Population Registry System by name and personal number, and it shall be permissible for names to be entered in Latin letters in addition to Arabic.

**Article -14-**

The Central Statistics Organization shall issue to every individual registered in the Central Population Registry System a card called the (Central Population Registry Card). It shall not be permissible for an individual to obtain more than one card. The Central Population Registry Card shall be used to prove the name and personal number of its owner with governmental and non-governmental authorities.

The Card shall be valid for a period of ten years, after which it shall be renewed for the same period, including to renew the cardholder's photo.

The Card shall be disbursed and renewed in accordance with the procedures specified by the Implementing Regulation and after paying the fees stipulated in this Regulation.

This Card shall be carried by every person who has attained the age of sixteen.

However, it shall be permissible to disburse it to the guardian of a person who has not reached this age, provided that he shall take over its preservation and use on behalf of its owner and shall be responsible for it.

The cardholder shall submit it to the representatives of the public authorities whenever requested to do so.

**Article -15-**

The holder of the Central Population Registry Card shall, in the event of its loss, notify the Central Statistics Organization or the authority it specifies for this purpose to the permanent committee of the Central Population Registry System within seven days from the date of the loss or damage, and he shall request the issuance of another card in accordance with the procedures and after paying the fees specified by the Implementing Regulation.

**Article -16-**

It shall not be permissible for government authorities, banks, companies, universities, schools, associations, clubs, and other public and private legal persons and individuals to accept, use, or retain in their service anyone as an employee, functionary, worker, member, or student unless he holds a Central Population Registry Card.

The employee concerned with the affairs of employees, members, or students shall be responsible for the implementation of the provision of this Article.

With the exception of:

(a) Non-Bahrainis who are not subject to the provisions of Article (2) of this Law.

(b) Hospital and ambulance emergencies.

**Article -17-**

The Central Statistics Organization, in coordination with the authorities stipulated in Article (16), shall collect information on the names and positions of employees, functionaries, and workers and their personal numbers during December of each year.

**Article -18-**

The government authorities competent to prove civil incidents shall regularly provide the Central Statistics Organization with the forms related to the incident, including the personal number of the concerned person, within seven days from the date of issuance of the document or publication in the Official Gazette.

The Implementing Regulation shall determine the data to be registered in the models referred to in the preceding Paragraph.

**Article -19-**

Individuals subject to the provisions of this Law shall inform the Central Statistics Organization or the authority specified for this purpose by the permanent committee of the Central Population Registry System of all changes in the demographic information relating to them within a month of the completion of the change.

This obligation shall apply to the head of the family in relation to his wife and minor children.

Citizens who are abroad shall inform the consul of the State of Bahrain of every change in their demographic information and inform the Central Statistics Organization in the absence of a consulate, on the dates and in accordance with the procedures specified by the Implementing Regulation.

**Article -20-**

Consulates of the State of Bahrain shall maintain a register to record demographic information for citizens residing in their jurisdiction, and they shall periodically notify the Central Statistics Organization of this information.

The Implementing Regulation shall regulate the procedures followed in this regard.

**Article -21-**

Every person registered in the Central Population Registry System holding the Central Population Registry Card shall be able, on the basis of a written request from him, to obtain an official true copy of the demographic information relating to him.

A person shall be permitted to extract official true copies of the demographic information relating to his ascendants, descendants, or spouses if it is proven to the President of the Central Statistics Organization that there is a justification for this.

It shall be permissible to grant a copy of this information to anyone who proves with the President of the Central Statistics Organization that he has an official special power of attorney from the person concerned.

The Implementing Regulation shall determine the procedures for extracting copies of this information and the fees due from it.

**Article -22-**

Subject to the provisions of Article (8), any governmental or non-governmental authority shall be allowed access to or use the demographic information recorded in the Central Population Registry or request an official copy of it if this authority has an interest in this or if this information helps it in performing its activity.

Coordination in this regard shall take place between these authorities and the permanent committee of the Central Population Registry System.

**Article -23-**

It shall not be permissible for a governmental or non-governmental authority that is allowed, in accordance with the provision of Article (22), to access or use demographic information, or to obtain an official copy of it, to access or allow the use of such information by another authority, except with the approval of the permanent committee of the Central Population Registry System.

**Article -24-**

The inspectors of the Central Statistics Organization assigned by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs for this purpose shall have the right, in order to implement the provisions of this Law, to view the books of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and any other books with governmental and non-governmental authorities within the limits of the demographic information stipulated in this Law.

These inspectors shall have the authority to prove the crimes that occur in violation of the provisions of this Law and refer them to the Public Prosecution.

**Article -25-**

The Central Statistics Organization shall request any individual subject to the provisions of this Law to provide his data and information relating to him or his representative, and it shall request him to appear before one of its employees for this purpose. The request shall be from the Minister or the President of the Central Statistics Organization.

**Article -26-**

Whoever violates the confidentiality of demographic information shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding six hundred dinars, or with either of these two penalties.

Without prejudice to any other penalty provided for in the Penal Code or any other law, payment of a fine not exceeding five hundred dinars shall be imposed on:

(a) Anyone who violates the provisions of the second Paragraph of the second Article of this Law.

(b) Anyone who has obtained or attempted to obtain demographic information by fraud, threat, misrepresentation, or any other means.

(c) Whoever publishes or compiles demographic information without obtaining a licence from the permanent committee.

(d) Whoever knowingly publishes or causes to be published incorrect demographic information.

(e) Whoever intentionally disrupts access to demographic information.

(f) Whoever refuses to make the statements required in accordance with the provisions of this Law or knowingly makes incorrect statements, and a fine not exceeding fifty dinars shall be imposed on anyone who:

(a) Whoever refrains from informing the Central Statistics Organization or the entity authorized by the permanent committee of the change of his registered address in the Central Population Registry System or whoever makes the report after the expiry of the date specified in Article (11).

(b) Whoever fails to apply for registration in the Central Population Registry in accordance with the deadlines specified by the Implementing Regulation and whoever does not apply for the issuance of another card in the event of its expiry, loss, or damage.

(c) Whoever accepts, retains, or employs an employee, functionary, worker, or student without obtaining a Population Registry Card, or fails to inform the Central Statistics Organization or the authority authorized by the permanent committee of their names.

(d) Whoever refrains from informing the Central Statistics Organization or the authority authorizing it to the permanent committee about the change in the demographic information related to it on the dates stipulated in Article (19) or reports after its expiry.

**Article -27-**

The Implementing Regulation of the Law shall be issued by the Minister of State for the Cabinet Affairs.

**Article -28-**

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

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace

On: 7 Ramadan 1404 A.H.

 Corresponding to: 7 June 1984