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**Legislative Decree No. (22) of 2015 amending some Provisions of the Procedures Before Sharia Courts Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

the Procedures Before Sharia Courts Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986, as amended;

Cassation Court Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (8) of 1989, as amended;

Judicial Authority Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (42) of 2002 as amended;

And upon the submission of the Prime Minister;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decreed the following Law:**

**Article One**

The texts of Article (1) and the third paragraph of Article (25) bis of the Procedures Before Sharia Courts Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986 shall be replaced with the following texts:

**Article (1):**

"In lawsuits other than those where settlement is not permissible, lawsuits requiring temporary or expedited measures, or execution procedures, anyone wishing to file a lawsuit regarding any of the personal status matters, falling within the jurisdiction of the Sharia courts, shall submit a request for dispute settlement to the Family Reconciliation Office”.

And if a lawsuit is initially filed with the Sharia courts regarding the disputes falling within their jurisdiction, in matters where settlement is permissible without submitting a settlement request to the Family Reconciliation Office to handle settlement efforts between the parties, the court shall order the referral of the lawsuit to the Family Reconciliation Office to carry out the settlement process”.

**Third paragraph of Article (25) bis:**

"Except for what has been mentioned above, the provisions governing the filing and notification of the lawsuit shall apply to those lawsuits, and it is not permissible to appeal in cassation or petition for rehearing judgments rendered therein”.

**Article Two**

The word “announcement” shall be replaced by the words “notification” and “summons” wherever they appear in the Procedures Before Sharia Courts Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986.

**Article Three**

Two new Articles (1) bis and ((1) bis (1)), shall be added to the Procedures before Sharia Courts Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (26) of 1986. A new Article (2) bis, entitled (Cassation) shall be added to the Fifth Chapter of the same Law, which shall include Article (61) bis. A new Article (69) shall also be added to the same Law, and shall read as follows:

**Article (1) bis:**

"The Family Reconciliation Office must make every necessary effort to settle the dispute amicably, in order to preserve the family entity, provided that the settlement shall be concluded within ten days from the date of submitting the request, and this period may only be extended upon the agreement of the litigants for a maximum of ten more days.

"If reconciliation is reached, it shall be documented in a record signed by the disputing parties and attached to the minutes of the session in which it is reached, and it shall have the force of an enforceable instrument, and the dispute shall be resolved within the limits of the reconciliation agreement.

"If the efforts to settle the dispute amicably do not result in a settlement of all or some of its elements, the request and all relevant documents shall be sent to the Lawsuit Registration Department to be registered as a lawsuit within a maximum period of five days from the date of receipt of the lawsuit file from the Family Reconciliation Office, in order to proceed with the judicial proceedings regarding the matters if the disputing parties did not reach an agreement, and the parties shall be notified accordingly”.

**Article (1) bis (1):**

"Except for the cases where a request for dispute settlement must be submitted to the Family Reconciliation Office, the lawsuit is filed by the claimant with the court through a bill submitted to the Lawsuit Registration Department".

**Article (61) bis:**

"The litigants shall have the right to appeal before the Cassation Court against the judgements issued by the Supreme Sharia Court of Appeal or the Higher Sharia Court in its appealing capacity, and the appeal shall be regulated by the laws of the Cassation Court”.

**Article (69):**

"The provisions of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law shall apply for matters not addressed by specific provisions in this law, the provisions of the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters shall also apply, to the extent that they do not contradict the provisions of this law”.

**Article Four**

The Minister of Justice shall issue a decision to establish the Family Reconciliation Office, determine its headquarter, submitting reconciliation requests submission procedures, their registration, notification, and the scheduling of sessions as well as the operation procedures in this Office and the rules and procedures to be followed for reconciliation purposes, and other requirements necessary for carrying out the reconciliation tasks.

This office shall include a sufficient number of legal, social, and psychological specialists.

Access to the services of the Family Reconciliation Office shall be free of charge.

**Article Five**

“The provisions of Articles (1) and (1) bis of this Law shall apply to lawsuits registered before the entry into force of this Law and in which procedures have not been initiated. The Lawsuit Registration Department shall refer such lawsuits to the Family Reconciliation Office, and the parties to the dispute shall be notified accordingly”.

**Article Six**

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

**Prime Minister**

**Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

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