

هيئة الصحة - أبوظبي  
HEALTH AUTHORITY - ABU DHABI



# Book 5: Systems of Births and Deaths

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Book 5: Systems of Births and Deaths

**Chairman of the Executive Council  
Decision No. (68) of 2008  
Concerning the Provisions for the  
Registration of Births in the Emirate of  
Abu Dhabi**

**Chairman of the Executive Council  
Decision No. (22) of 2008  
Concerning the Organization of  
Cemeteries and the Procedures  
for the Registration of Deaths and  
Burial of Bodies**



Chairman of the Executive Council  
Decision No. (68) of 2008  
Concerning the Provisions for the  
Registration of Births in the Emirate of  
Abu Dhabi

## **Chairman of the Executive Council Decision No. (68) of 2008 Concerning the Provisions for the Registration of Births in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi**

We, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince and  
Chairman of the Executive Council,

Upon consideration of Law No. (1) of 1974 Reorganizing the  
government structure in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, as amended,

And Law No. (1) of 2007 concerning the establishment of the  
Health Authority – Abu Dhabi,

And Federal Law No. (6) of 1975 concerning the Organization of  
the Registration of Births and Deaths, as amended,

And Federal Law No. (11) of 1992 Concerning the Civil Procedures,  
as amended,

And Federal Law No. (35) of 1992 Concerning the Penal  
Procedures, as amended,

And Federal Law No. (28) of 2005 Concerning Personal Status,

And the Chairman of the Executive Council Decision No. (22) of  
2008 Concerning the Organization of Cemeteries and the  
Procedures for the Registration of Deaths and Burials,

And based upon the proposal to the Executive Council and the  
Council's approval thereof,

Hereby issue the following Decision:

## **Article 1**

The provisions attached hereto in respect of the registration of births in the emirate of Abu Dhabi shall be implemented.

## **Article 2**

This Decision shall come into effect on the date that it is issued, and shall be published in the official gazette.

**Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
**Crown Prince**  
**Chairman of the Executive Council**

Issued by Us in Abu Dhabi  
On: December 15, 2008 AD  
Corresponding to Thil Hija 17 ,1429 AH

# Provisions for the Registration of Births in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

## Part I

### Definitions and Scope of Application

#### Article 1

In applying the provisions of this Decision, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings set forth opposite each one unless the context indicates otherwise:

State	: The State of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Emirate	: The Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
Council	: The Executive Council of the Emirate.
Authority	: The Health Authority – Abu Dhabi.
Nationals	: The UAE nationals residing in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
Non-national	: Any individual not confirmed as a holder of the UAE nationality.
Department	: The Department of Births at the Authority, concerned with the registration of births.
Liveborn Infant	: A newborn who shows signs of life directly after birth regardless of the length of the pregnancy.
Stillborn Infant	: A newborn who does not show signs of life directly after birth, provided that the length of the pregnancy is not less than twenty eight weeks.

## Article 2

The provisions hereof shall apply to all birth cases inside the Emirate, the children of Nationals of Abu Dhabi Emirate born outside the State and whomsoever the Authority deems eligible for registration according to the provisions of this Decision.

## Part II

### Notification and Registration of Births

#### Article 3

Subject to the provisions of Article (16) of this resolution, the Department must be notified of the events of all births occurring inside or outside the government or private therapeutic facilities or in any other place where a birth might occur in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

#### Article 4

Notification of the birth of a live born infant shall take place within a maximum of 30 days from the date of birth, provided that such notification shall be made by any of the following:

- 1- The birth attendant (physician or midwife) or the director of the facility where the birth has occurred.
- 2- Any of the newborn's parents.
- 3- An adult relative running the newborn's family affairs.
- 4- The embassy or consulate of the newborn's father in Abu Dhabi



in the cases requiring so.

A notification by any party other than those hereinabove mentioned shall not be acceptable.

## Article 5

A notification and registration of a stillbirth shall be made according to the Chairman of the Executive Council Decision No. (22) of 2008 Concerning the Organization of Cemeteries and the Procedures for the Registration of Deaths and Burials.

## Article 6

A notification of a birth shall be made in writing and in the Arabic language and may include an English translation provided that it shall be in the form prescribed by the Authority.

## Article 7

The notification shall include the following data:

- 1- The day and date of birth according to the Gregorian and Hijra calendars, in letters and in numbers, including the time of birth.
- 2- Place of birth.
- 3- Gender of the newborn (male/ female).
- 4- Name of the newborn (singular/compound).
- 5- Tripartite name, surname, age, nationality, religion, creed, profession, domicile and ID number of the father and mother.

6- Name of the birth attendant, if any.

7- Tripartite name, capacity, nationality, profession and signature of the notifier of a birth.

8- Any other data to be added as deemed appropriate by the Authority.

## Article 8

The expression “Non-national” shall be entered in the column “nationality” in respect of a newborn whose father does not hold any identification papers establishing his nationality status.

## Article 9

Religions shall be registered on the specified space thereof.

## Article 10

The permission of the competent court must be sought upon requesting a certificate in respect of a birth that has resulted from an annulled marriage according to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia.

## Article 11

The birth notification shall be submitted to the Department or any of its branches located in the district where the birth has occurred, together with the following documents:

1- The original copy of the notification of the health facility where the birth has occurred or a written request from the notifier if the

birth has occurred outside the health facility.

2- The parents' original passports and copies thereof.

3- The original family book and a copy thereof in respect of Nationals.

4- The original ID card, if any, and a copy thereof.

5- The original marriage contract, duly authenticated, and a copy thereof.

## Article 12

The competent employee at the Department shall verify the identity and capacity of the notifier of the event of birth before completing the registration. The employee shall also verify the validity of the documents and data related to the event of birth, provided that the registration employee and the notifier shall both sign the registration documents before registration.

## Article 13

The Authority shall set up a birth registration mechanism and draw up the documents and forms related thereto. The birth notification data shall be entered into the birth registration system established by the Authority. No amendments may be made to the register or the birth certificate after registration unless by a decision of the committee established according to Article (19) hereto.

## Part IV

### Birth Certificate

#### Article 14

The Authority shall draw up a form for the birth certificate that shall conform to the birth certificate form approved in the State, and shall include the following data:

- 1- Name of the newborn.
- 2- Tripartite names of the parents.
- 3- Place of birth.
- 4- Day and date of birth (Gregorian and Hijra).
- 5- Gender of the newborn (male or female).
- 6- Religion of the newborn.
- 7- Nationality of the parents.

Provided that the birth certificate or an extract thereof shall be approved by the Authority and sealed with the Authority's seal.

#### Article 15

The Authority or any of its branches concerned with birth registration shall issue a birth certificate for every liveborn infant and deliver it to either of the newborn's parents or the birth notifier. Any other concerned party may obtain an extract of the

birth certificate at any time.

## Article 16

If a National is born outside the State, the newborn's father or any of his relatives shall carry out the following:

- 1- notify the UAE consulate or embassy where the birth has occurred, within a maximum of 60 days from the date of birth, in order to register the birth and obtain a certificate of registration.
- 2- in the absence of a UAE consulate or embassy, obtain a birth certificate authenticated by the state where the birth has occurred, provided that a birth certificate shall be obtained for the newborn based on any of the abovementioned two certificates. The Authority shall register the newborn according to Authority's birth registration procedures.

## Article 17

If a newborn is found in the Emirate, he/she shall be delivered to the nearest police station, and the police shall draw up a report providing the following:

- 1- All the particulars of the finder.
- 2- The date, time and place where the newborn was found.
- 3- The belongings found with the newborn including the newborn's clothes.
- 4- The condition and circumstances in which the newborn was found, provided that the newborn shall be delivered to the nearest

government hospital to be cared for until the public prosecution has issued a decision determining the party to whom the newborn shall be handed over for custody.

## Article 18

The public prosecution shall give the newborn a tripartite name. The report shall then be referred to the Authority for issuing a birth certificate for the newborn, provided that he/she shall be registered as a Muslim. The birth certificate shall be delivered to the party to which the public prosecution has decided to deliver the newborn. All the information included in the police and public prosecution reports shall be registered in the Authority's records.

## Article 19

By a decision of the Department of Judiciary a committee shall be established in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi which shall be called the "Births Committee". The following bodies shall be represented on the committee.

- 1- Department of Judiciary – Abu Dhabi
- 2- Health Authority – Abu Dhabi
- 3- Abu Dhabi Police

The committee shall be concerned with the following:

- 1- Births registration applications with questionable documents.
- 2- Births registration applications submitted after the date set out in Article (4) hereof.

3- Applications for changing a newborn's name or surname, or the name of either of the newborn's parents.

4- Correction of any data registered incorrectly, subject to the provisions of Articles 10, 17, 18 and 20 hereof.

5- Any cases of births registration or amendments to registered data that the Authority sees fit to submit them to the committee.

## Article 20

The cases of proving or disproving a filiation shall not be registered on a birth certificate unless by virtue of a final court order.

## Article 21

Whoever submits or participates in submitting untrue data or documents in respect of a newborn's registration or an amendment to the newborn's birth certificate shall be referred to the competent judicial authorities in the Emirate for appropriate legal action.

## Article 22

The births registration system and all the births notification documents are confidential and may not be disclosed. The Authority shall develop a system for the preservation and confidentiality of the records and documents. The records, births notification documents or birth certificate copies shall not be subject to the applicable document disposal regulations.

**Chairman of the Executive Council  
Decision No. (22) of 2008 Concerning  
the Organization of Cemeteries and  
the Procedures for the Registration of  
Deaths and Burial of Bodies**



# Chairman of the Executive Council Decision No. (22) of 2008 Concerning the Organization of Cemeteries and the Procedures for the Registration of Deaths and Burial of Bodies

We, Mohammed Bin Zayed AL Nahyan, Crown Prince and  
Chairman of the Executive Council,

Upon consideration of Law No. (1) of 1974 Reorganizing the  
Government Structure in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, as amended,

And Law No. (1) of 2007 concerning the Establishment of the  
Health Authority – Abu Dhabi,

And Federal Law No. (6) of 1975 Organizing the Registration of  
Births and Deaths, as amended,

And Federal Law No. (27) of 1981 Concerning the Prevention of  
Communicable Diseases,

And Federal Law No. (11) of 1992 Concerning the Civil Procedures,  
as amended,

And Federal Law No. (35) of 1992 Concerning the Penal  
Procedures, as amended,

And based upon the proposal to the Executive Council and the  
Council's approval thereof,

Hereby issue the following Decision:

## Article 1

The provisions attached hereto in respect of the Organization of Cemeteries and the Procedures for the Registration of Deaths and Burial of Bodies shall be implemented.

## Article 2

This Decision shall come into effect on the date that it is issued, and shall be published in the official gazette.

**Mohammed Bin Zayed AL Nahyan**  
**Crown Prince**  
**Chairman of the Executive Council**

Issued by Us in Abu Dhabi  
On 19 March 2008 AD  
Corresponding to 11 Rabie Al-Awal 1429 AH

# Organization of Cemeteries and Burial Procedures

## Chapter I

### Definitions

#### Article 1

The following words and expressions shall have the meanings set forth opposite each one unless the context indicates otherwise:

State	: The State of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Emirate	: The Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
Council	: The Executive Council of the Emirate.
Authority	: The Health Authority – Abu Dhabi.
Competent Municipality	: The municipality within whose territorial jurisdiction the cemeteries are located.
Competent Department	: The department at the municipality which is concerned with the cemeteries.
Nationals	: The UAE nationals residing in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

## Chapter II

### Establishment and Organization of Cemeteries and their Designated Locations

#### Article 2

Upon the recommendation of a joint municipal committee,

appropriate construction sites shall be designated by a decision of the Chairman of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the construction of new cemeteries as necessary.

### **Article 3**

No private cemeteries, cemeteries for the followers of other religions or facilities for the cremation of dead bodies of non-Muslims may be established unless with the authorization of the competent municipality after fulfilling all the regulatory conditions and health procedures prescribed by the Authority and the competent authorities.

### **Article 4**

Uniform fences shall be built around the existing cemeteries, whether used or closed, or any cemeteries that might be constructed in the future. These shall be secured and protected by the competent municipality after approval by the Executive Council.

### **Article 5**

No premises or facilities may be built inside the cemeteries, nor tombstones erected or any other additions made to the tombs, unless after approval by the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Awqaf and under the supervision of the competent department.

### **Article 6**

The competent municipality shall allocate places for the cremation of bodies of non-Muslims. The cremation shall be carried out by their sects and after obtaining the required cremation permits from

the Authority and the competent department.

## Article 7

The establishment of a new cemetery shall fulfill the following requirements:

- 1- It shall be located as far as possible from the construction sites or the future expansion of the potential residential bloc.
- 2- Its establishment shall not affect or transgress into the water sources or groundwater.
- 3- It shall be built on a wasteland with the least value possible, that cannot be used in the future for other than the purpose for which it has been allocated.
- 4- The location shall fulfill the non-pollution conditions, and the cemetery shall not be built within the vision scope of natural barriers, gardens or sloping hills.
- 5- It shall be surrounded at every side by a sanctum onto which no constructions or public parks may be established.
- 6- It shall have several entrances and exits and shall not be at a distance of more than 45 minutes by car from the residential bloc.
- 7- The suitability of the location and soil for burial shall be subject to approval by the Authority.

## Article 8

A cemetery shall have a special place for the burial of organs that have been amputated from a human body. No human organ amputated for medical reasons may be buried unless by a permit from the Authority. If the amputation was due to a criminal reason, the burial permit may only be given after the issue of the public prosecution's decision, provided that the same burial procedures followed with respect to dead bodies shall be used.

## Chapter III

### Procedures for the use of Cemeteries

## Article 9

A database shall be established for the deceased at the Authority and the competent department, where both databases shall be connected electronically. The database shall include the personal data of the deceased, the date of death, the number, date and issuing authority of the burial permit, the registration number and any other data that might be useful in this regard. Both databases shall be connected to the database of the Emirates Identity Authority. The data of the deceased may not be changed or altered unless after approval by the committee established according to Article 37 hereof.

## Article 10

The cemeteries – new ones in particular– shall be planned according to the system of numbered lines and graves for easy tracking.

## Article 11

The cemeteries shall include special burial places for the deceased who had died from communicable diseases, provided that the technical specifications of these cemeteries shall be determined by the Authority.

## Article 12

The deceased who had died from communicable diseases may not be buried in the cemeteries allocated therefor unless with a special authorization from and under the supervision of the Authority.

## Article 13

Communicable diseases shall be determined pursuant to the respective laws and decisions.

## Article 14

The Authority shall determine the places where the dead bodies are washed, shrouded and prepared for burial, provided that such places shall be equipped with all the necessary requisites and devices.

## Article 15

The following shall be buried in the cemeteries of the Emirate:

1- The Nationals, unless their families request that they be buried in the emirate where they belong.

2- The Gulf Cooperation Countries Council (GCC) subjects, unless their families request that they be buried in their own countries.

3- The expatriates, unless their families request that they be buried in their own countries.

4- The identity-less individuals.

The burial shall take place in the cemetery prescribed for the religion of the deceased..

## Chapter IV

### Notification and Registration of Deaths

#### Article 16

1. The police shall be notified of all events of death occurring outside the government and private therapeutic facilities.

2. The Authority shall be notified of all events of death occurring at the government and private therapeutic facilities.

Notification shall take place within 72 hours from the date of death or stillbirth, provided that it shall be made by any of the following:

Either parent of the deceased;

An adult living in the same residence with the deceased;

An adult relative who was present at the time of death;

An employer or manager at work, or a manager of a hotel,



correctional facility or any other place, if death has occurred in any of these places;  
The physician or health representative confirming death;

3. Notification shall be made according to the aforementioned order. Notification by other than those concerned shall not be acceptable.

## Article 17

In the event of the death of a National of the Emirate during travel outside the State, the consular mission in the country where death has occurred shall be notified within a maximum period of 60 days from the date of death, or notification shall be made by mail if the entity where death has occurred does not fall under the jurisdiction of the consular mission. The notification shall carry the signature of the notifier, authenticated by an official authority, or enclose a death certificate or an official extract thereof issued by the competent authority where the death has occurred.

## Article 18

All dead bodies shall be transported to the central mortuary of the district where the death has occurred or to the places specified by the Authority.

## Article 19

A notification of a death shall be verbal or in writing, and shall include the following data:

1. The day and date of death according to the Hijra and Gregorian

calendars, in letters and in numbers, with the time and place of death.

2. The gender, tripartite name, surname, nationality, religion, age, profession and domicile of the deceased.
3. The names of the parents of the deceased, if known, their surnames, nationalities, religions and domicile.
4. The cause of death.
5. The name, surname, age, nationality, profession, capacity and signature of the notifier.
6. The length of the months of pregnancy if the notification is in respect of a stillborn.

A notification shall be made in the form prescribed by the Authority.

## Chapter V

### Determining the Cause of Death and Burial Permits

#### Article 20

The Authority shall set up a death registration mechanism and draw up the documents and forms related thereto.

## Article 21

No dead body may be buried unless after performing a postmortem examination by the Authority's physicians to determine the cause of death with respect to natural death cases. As for the cases of death involving crimes, accidents or unknown identities, a dead body shall be examined by the entity specified by the police or public prosecution according to jurisdiction. The dead body shall undergo a postmortem examination at the mortuary of the district where the death has occurred, or at the places specified therefor by the Authority.

## Article 22

The Authority shall issue burial permits in the cases of normal death. In the cases of criminal death or accidents or if the deceased is of unknown identity, the burial permit may only be issued upon the written approval of the police or public prosecution according to jurisdiction. The Authority shall issue an embalment certificate for the body.

## Article 23

The Authority or any of its branches shall issue a death certificate within one week from the date of notification of death, which certificate shall be delivered to the family of the deceased. Any concerned party may obtain an additional copy thereof at any time.

## Chapter VII

### Procedures for Burial

#### Article 24

It shall be prohibited to bury, transport or cremate the body of a deceased inside the Emirate unless after obtaining a relevant permit from the Authority and the competent department, pursuant to this Decision.

#### Article 25

It shall be permissible to bury or cremate the body of a deceased who is not a resident of the Emirate in the following cases:

- a- If the deceased has a visit or mission visa issued by the Emirate.
- b- If the deceased has been found aboard an airplane that had to make an emergency landing in the Emirate and its takeoff was delayed.
- c- If the residence or visit permit of the deceased has expired.
- d- If the deceased is of unknown identity or does not have any identification documents.
- e- If the body of the deceased could not be transported outside the Emirate for reasons related to public health.
- f- Any other case where the Authority and the director of the

competent department decide that the deceased should be buried in the cemeteries of the Emirate.

## Article 26

A deceased Muslim is to be washed, shrouded and prepared for burial according to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia, in the places determined by the Authority, within three days from the completion of the pre-burial procedures. With the approval of the Authority or competent department – upon the request of the family of the deceased – the dead body may be prepared at home, and prayers may be held at home or at a mosque.

## Article 27

The family of a deceased non-Muslim shall prepare the deceased for burial or cremation, according to their rituals, within one week from the completion of the pre-burial or pre-cremation procedures, under the supervision of the Authority and the competent authority.

## Article 28

No dead body shall be placed into custody or kept at the mortuary for any reason unless with the authorization of the public prosecution.

## Article 29

The dead body is to be embalmed according to the applicable medical and preventive procedures as determined by the Authority.

## Article 30

The dead body of a deceased may be transported to another emirate upon the approval of the competent authority in the emirate to which the body will be transported. If the body is to be transported outside the State, the approval of the embassy of or the competent authority in the country to which the body will be transported is required, provided that the embassy of such country shall take part in the preparation and transportation of the deceased according to the country's applicable procedures.

## Chapter VIII

### Fees

#### Article 31

The Authority shall collect the following fees:

- Fifty dirhams for the issue of a death certificate, a replacement thereof, or an additional copy.
- One thousand dirhams for the preparation of the body for travel (embalmmment / shrouding / box).
- Fifty dirhams for each day of delay in taking over the body after the issue of its handover decision by the competent authority provided that its family is notified in writing thereof.
- One hundred dirhams for using the ambulance to transport the body of the deceased from the hospital to the cemetery or the airport.

By a decision of the Chairman of the Authority, some fees may be waived or reduced in humanitarian cases.

## Chapter IX

### General Provisions

#### Article 32

The old cemeteries located inside the residential areas shall be shut down, and no burials shall take place therein. They shall be surrounded by uniform fences, planted with trees and guarded and secured against tampering.

#### Article 33

The family, sponsor, or embassy of the deceased shall respectively undertake to receive the body of the deceased after the issue of its handover decision by the competent authorities. If no one comes forward to receive the body from the place where it is kept after having been notified in writing, for over thirty (30) days, that the body is ready for burial, the competent department together with the Authority shall carry out the burial procedures according to the provisions hereof.

#### Article 34

A dead body that has been buried may not be unearthed to be transported to any other place, whether inside or outside the State, unless six months have elapsed since the date of burial, and only with an authorization from the committee established under

Article (37). If the death has been caused by a communicable disease, the body may not in any way be unearthed unless with the permission of the Authority and the committee, and according to the preventive and quarantine procedures approved therefor.

## Article 35

In cases of death occurring in execution of court judgments, all the procedures specified for washing, shrouding, transporting and evacuating the body shall be carried out in coordination with the police.

## Article 36

There shall be established within each of the Authority and the concerned municipality an independent department concerned with implementing the provisions of this Decision. These departments shall coordinate with each other in performing their tasks, as well as with all the concerned authorities in the Emirate.

## Article 37

A committee shall be formed in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by a decision of the Department of Judiciary, and shall comprise the following:

1. Department of Judiciary – Abu Dhabi
2. Health Authority – Abu Dhabi
3. Abu Dhabi Police
4. Abu Dhabi Municipality

The committee shall be concerned with issuing permits for transporting the dead bodies after burial and correcting or adding



any data in the previously issued death certificates.

## **Article 38**

The competent authorities in the Emirate shall determine the exit passages through which the bodies may be evacuated outside the State. No dead bodies may be evacuated through any exit other than these exit passages.

## **Article 39**

The police shall patrol the cemeteries, monitor sentry duties and control any violations occurring therein.

## **Article 40**

The forms, certificates and records related to the provisions of this Decision shall be unified.