

Federal Law No. (21) of 1997 Determining the Dowry in the Marriage Contract and the Expenses thereof

We, Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

- Having Reviewed:
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 regarding the Competencies of the Ministries and the Powers of Ministers and the laws amending thereof;
- Federal Law No. (12) of 1973 Determining the Dowry in the Marriage Contract;
- Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 Promulgating the Penal Code; and
- Federal Law No. (47) of 1992 Establishing the Marriage Fund;
- In consideration of the submission made by the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, approval of the Council of Ministers and Ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

Have enacted the following Law:

Article (1)

The advance dowry in the Contract Marriage shall not be more than (AED 20,000) twenty thousand Dirhams and the deferred dowry shall not be more than (AED 30,000) thirty thousand Dirhams.

Article (2)

Any action claiming for the excess of limits stated in Article (1) hereof shall not be heard before courts and this provision shall apply to the actions pending before courts as of the

effective date of this Law.

Article (3)

1. Days of the wedding ceremony may not be more than one day only.
2. No more than nine camels may be slaughtered in the wedding ceremonies.

Article (4)

Whoever violates the provisions of this Law shall be deprived of the marriage grant set out in Federal Law No. (47) of 1992 referred to above.

Article (5)

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article (4), whoever violates the provisions of Clause (2) of Article (3) of this Law shall be punished by a fine of (AED 500,000) five hundred thousand dirhams.

Article (6)

The Minister of Interior and Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments shall implement the provisions of this Law and may issue the necessary resolutions in this regard.

Article (7)

Federal Law No. (12) of 1973 referred to above as well as any provision contrary or repugnant to the provisions of this Law are hereby repealed.

Article (8)

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into full force and effect as of the publication date thereof.

Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by us in the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi

On 21 Shaaban 1418 AH.

Corresponding to 21 December 1997 AD.