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**Law No. (11) of 1975 regarding Passports**

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

Having reviewed Article (35/a) of the Constitution,

The National Council have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

Article -1-

No Bahraini national may leave or enter the State of Bahrain without a passport issued in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

This passport may be replaced by a transit pass or similar document in cases specified by a decision from the Minister of Interior.

The passport shall be replaced by a travel document issued by the Ministry of Interior for the individuals specified in the first paragraph for their commute between Gulf countries, and it shall also be replaced by the document issued by the Ministry of Interior for seafarers and their captains (Nuwakhitha) or for aircraft crew members.

Article -2-

Passports shall be issued to those holding Bahraini nationality in accordance with the provisions of the Nationality Law in force at the time of issuing the passport.

Article -3-

The Minister of Interior may issue travel documents or transit tickets to non-Bahrainis residing in the State of Bahrain for the following categories:

1- Individuals who are stateless or without fixed nationality.

2- Individuals with a fixed nationality but unable to obtain travel documents from their own countries or where they are located due to lost or expired passports, lack of diplomatic representation in Bahrain, or other reasons as determined by the Ministry of Interior.

Article -4-

The travel documents or transit tickets referred to in the previous article shall not grant their holders the right to enter or transit through the State of Bahrain unless they obtain an entry or transit visa or a return visa, and they shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of issuance, non-renewable.

Article -5-

Individuals may not leave or return to the State of Bahrain except from designated locations for this purpose and with the permission of the relevant passport officer, as indicated by endorsement on the passport or the equivalent document.

The Minister of Interior shall issue a decision to designate the locations assigned for entry to and exit from the State of Bahrain.

Article -6-

The passports issued in the name of the State of Bahrain are as follows:

1- Diplomatic passports.

2- Special passports.

3- Ordinary passports.

Article -7-

Diplomatic passports shall be granted to:

a. The Prince and the Crown Prince.

b. The Prime Minister and members of Cabinet.

c. The Speaker of the National Council and Deputy Speaker.

d. Members of the Bahraini diplomatic and consular corps, as well as members of the missions of the State of Bahrain to international organisations, equivalent to members of the diplomatic corps.

e. Technical attachés of all ranks in diplomatic missions abroad.

f. Holders of diplomatic bags.

g. Bahraini wives, minor children, and unmarried daughters of individuals in categories (a, b, c, d, e) of this Article, if they travel alone.

Article -8-

With the approval of the Prince, a diplomatic passport may be granted to:

a. Members of the ruling family.

b. State employees dispatched on official missions abroad, upon the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

c. Those dispatched to represent the State of Bahrain in a specialised agency of the United Nations, during the performance of their duties.

d. Wives of individuals in categories (b, c) who hold Bahraini nationality and their minor children travelling with them.

Article -9-

Special passports shall be granted to:

a. Members of the ruling family, following the approval of the Prime Minister.

b. Members of the National Council, their wives, and their minor children.

c. Employees holding the rank of Undersecretary or higher, or those in equivalent positions.

d. The former Speaker of the National Council and his Deputy.

e. Former ministers, following the approval of the Prime Minister.

f. Former ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary, provided they have not been dismissed by a disciplinary decision.

g. Administrative and clerical staff attached to diplomatic and consular missions and to the State of Bahrain's missions to international organisations, following the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

h. Employees dispatched by decision of the Cabinet to represent the State of Bahrain at conferences, meetings, and international bodies.

i. Employees and accompanying individuals dispatched with delegations representing the National Council.

Article -10-

The Minister of Interior, after obtaining the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, shall determine the format of the passport in its three types and the data that must be completed.

Article -11-

A passport shall be valid for four years and may be renewed for a period of three years, provided that the total validity of the passport does not exceed ten years from its date of issuance.

This does not apply to diplomatic or special passports issued for official missions, which shall expire upon the completion of that mission.

Article -12-

1- A passport may include the names of the holder's wife and children under the age of eighteen at the time of issuance, provided they are accompanying him on his travel; their names, dates of birth, and gender must be recorded in the designated space, and their photographs must be affixed and stamped with the seal of the issuing authority. Additionally, the names of the wife and children under the age of eighteen may be added to the passport after its issuance upon the request of the holder.

2- Notwithstanding the previous clause, Bahraini women shall be exempt from the requirement to include a photograph in the passport if they so request.

Article -13-

A wife shall not be granted an independent passport without the husband's consent.
Individuals with limited legal capacity shall not be granted independent passports without the consent of their legal representatives.

Article -14-

The passport shall indicate the countries that the holder is permitted to enter upon issuance, and additional countries' names may be added following the issuance of the passport, upon the request of the holder.

Article -15-

For serious reasons, the Minister of Interior may refuse a request for the issuance, renewal, or withdrawal of a passport. An individual whose request has been denied or whose passport has been withdrawn may appeal the decision before the High Civil Court within one week from the date of notification of the decision. The appeal shall be considered urgently, and a ruling may be contested before the Supreme Civil Court of Appeal within one week from the date of issuance.

Article -16-

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be responsible for issuing and renewing diplomatic passports, while the Ministry of Interior (General Directorate of Immigration and Passports) shall be responsible for issuing and renewing special and ordinary passports.

The consulates of the State abroad shall be responsible for renewing passports for State nationals residing abroad and issuing new passports for those who have lost theirs. They shall also be responsible for granting free travel documents in cases specified by a decision issued by the Minister of Interior.

Article -17-

The Minister of Interior shall issue a decision regarding the rules and procedures to be followed in submitting applications for ordinary and special passports, as well as requests for amendments or renewals, and shall specify the documents and papers to be attached.

He shall also issue a decision regarding the fees for obtaining these passports, for renewal requests, for adding information to them, or for amending the existing information, as well as the applicable fees for visas and the conditions for complete or partial exemption.

As for applications for diplomatic passports, the Minister of Foreign Affairs shall issue a decision regarding the rules to be followed in submitting, amending, and renewing them, along with the documents to be attached.

Article -18-

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated by any other law, imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not exceeding four months, and a fine of not less than fifty dinars and not exceeding four hundred dinars, or one of these penalties shall be imposed on anyone who:

1- Violates the provisions of Article Five.

2- Submits false information or claims with the intent of obtaining a Bahraini passport for themselves or for another person.

3- Signs a false certificate for a passport or travel document applicant.

Article -19-

Any provision that conflicts with the provisions of this Law shall be repealed.

Article -20-

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Interior—each within their jurisdiction—shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Emir of the State of Bahrain

Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace

12 Jumada al-Awwal 1395 AH

Corresponding to 31 May 1975