Criminal Law

A practical overview of **criminal law in the UAE**: Penal Code offences, cybercrime, financial complaints, and travel bans.

CORE AREAS

PENAL CODE

Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021 is the UAE Penal Code. It governs criminal offences and penalties, including misdemeanors, felonies, violations, fines, imprisonment, and related consequences.

CYBERCRIME

Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2021 regulates cybercrime and online conduct. It covers hacking, online fraud, identity misuse, electronic threats, online defamation, rumors, and certain virtual asset-related offences.

FINANCIAL COMPLAINTS

Bounced cheques have been largely decriminalized, with many cheque claims now handled through civil enforcement. Fraud, bad faith, forgery, breach of trust, and dishonest conduct may still trigger criminal liability.

TRAVEL BANS

Travel bans may arise from criminal investigations, court proceedings, unpaid debts, enforcement cases, or other legal restrictions. A travel ban must be resolved or lifted before the person can leave the UAE.

KEY CONCEPTS

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Most criminal matters begin with a complaint, police investigation, prosecution review, and possible court referral. Depending on the offence, the case may involve bail, detention, expert reports, hearings, judgment, and appeal.

RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED

- Presumption of innocence.
- Right to legal counsel.
- Right to an interpreter where required.
- Right to appeal in accordance with UAE law.

Facing uncertainty in a criminal matter?

Our team can guide you through assistance with investigations, financial complaints, cybercrime, and travel bans.

BOOK A CONSULTATION ↗

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