Family Law

A practical overview of **personal status matters in the UAE**: marriage, divorce, child custody, and financial support.

CORE AREAS

MARRIAGE

Civil marriage is available in Abu Dhabi for non-Muslims through ADJD. Muslim marriages and many marriages in other Emirates generally follow Sharia-based procedures.

DIVORCE

Non-Muslims may access no-fault divorce under the UAE civil personal status framework. Muslim divorces generally follow Sharia-based rules, with both mutual consent and contested procedures available.

CHILD CUSTODY

For Muslim families, custody and guardianship are treated as separate legal concepts. For non-Muslims, joint custody is generally favored, with the best interests of the child as the guiding standard.

MAINTENANCE

Family claims may include child support, spousal maintenance, housing, school fees, medical costs, iddah support, and financial compensation. Amounts awarded depend on income, needs, lifestyle, and case facts.

KEY CONCEPTS

NON-MUSLIM PATHWAY

Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2022 applies to non-Muslim personal status matters across the UAE. Abu Dhabi also offers a dedicated civil family court system for non-Muslims, including civil marriage, divorce, custody, and inheritance procedures.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Foreign family documents usually require legalization, attestation, and Arabic translation for UAE court use. Common documents include marriage certificates, birth certificates, passports, Emirates IDs, residency records, and financial evidence.

Need support with a family matter?

Our team is here to help you understand your rights and options, with guidance tailored to your family's circumstances.

BOOK A CONSULTATION ↗

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