



# The Anti-Begging Law

## Highlights

-  The Law was issued by Royal Decree No. (M/20) dated 9/2/1443 AH.
-  The Law was published in Umm Al-Qura gazette on 2/17/1443 AH.
-  The Law shall be enforced as of the date of the executive regulation issuance, which shall not exceed (90) days from the law's published date.
-  The Law consists of (11) article.
-  A non-Saudi beggar, except for the wife of a Saudi national or the husband or children of a Saudi woman, against whom any of the penalties provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article (5) have been imposed shall be deported from the Kingdom after the penalty is satisfied in accordance with applicable legal procedures, and shall be barred from returning to the Kingdom except for performing Hajj or Umrah.
-  The Public Prosecution shall investigate and prosecute offenses stipulated in the Law.
-  The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development is the component authority for coordinating with other relevant authorities with anti-begging.
-  The Ministry of Interior shall have the authority to apprehend beggars.

## The Anti-Begging Law Issuance Gains

### The Anti-Begging Law aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Reducing the social, economic and security impact resulting from begging, which include fraud, deception, theft, and drugs.
- Reducing the expat workers' running-off from work, who engage in begging activities.
- Leading beggars toward benefiting from the services provided by governmental and charitable organizations.
- Imposing penalties that contribute to curbing the growth of the phenomenon of begging.

### The Law Shall Apply To:

The (5,6) paragraphs of article (1) states that in this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Beggar:** Any person who directly or indirectly begs others to obtain property, whether in cash or in kind, for free or for something not intended as an exchange for the obtained property, in public or private places or through modern technology and communication means or any other means.

**Habitual Beggar:** Any person who is apprehended two or more times for begging.

### The Law Scope of Application Is:

The article (2) of the Anti-Begging Law states that Begging in all forms and manifestations, irrespective of its justifications, shall be prohibited.

And this includes according to the Beggar definition provided in the Law, begging, or obtaining money for free or for something not intended as an exchange by any means. **Whether it is in:**

- Public places.
- Private places.
- Modern technology and communication means.

### The Begging Proceeds Rules:

The article (6) of the Anti-Begging Law states that all begging proceeds are confiscated according to the following:

All cash and in-kind funds obtained by the beggar through begging, or which may be used in such activities, are confiscated by court order. If seizure of such property is infeasible, the competent court shall impose a fine equal to the value thereof, taking into account the rights of bona fide persons.

## Jurisdictions and Responsibilities of Government Authorities Regarding Anti-Begging:

- The article (2) of the Law states that the Ministry of Interior shall have the authority to apprehend beggars.
- The article (4) of the Law states that the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development shall, within the limits of the provisions of this Law, coordinate with relevant authorities regarding combating begging, and shall, in particular, it is assigned with the following:
  - Examine the social, health, psychological, and economic condition of beggars of Saudi nationality.
  - Provide social, health, psychological, and economic services to beggars of Saudi nationality according to their needs, in accordance with relevant laws and legislations.
  - Provide guidance to beggars of Saudi nationality on how to benefit from the services provided by government, private, and charitable organization, and follow up on them through aftercare.
  - Create, for the purpose of establishing cases of habitual begging, a database of beggars, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, and register in the database each case of begging in which the beggar is apprehended and each case for which the Ministry provides the services mentioned in this Article.
  - Raise awareness of the psychological and social impact as well as the economic and security risks of begging.
  - Conduct studies and research and organize seminars and conferences relating to combating begging.
- The article (3,8) of the Law states that the Public Prosecution shall investigate and prosecute offenses stipulated in the Law .

## Penalties

Any person who engages in habitual begging or incites, aids, or abets another person in any way to engage in habitual begging shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not exceeding **six months** or a fine not exceeding **fifty thousand riyals**, or to both penalties.

Any person who engages in habitual begging, leads a group of beggars, or incites, aids, or abets another person in any way to engage in the same within an organized group that engages in habitual begging shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not exceeding **one year** or a fine not exceeding **one hundred thousand riyals**, or to both penalties.

### In addition to the following:

- A non-Saudi beggar, except for the wife of a Saudi national or the husband or children of a Saudi woman, against whom any of the penalties provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article (5) have been imposed shall be deported from the Kingdom after the penalty is satisfied in accordance with applicable legal procedures, and shall be barred from returning to the Kingdom except for performing Hajj or Umrah.
- A penalty may be increased in case of repetition, provided that such penalty does not exceed double the prescribed maximum penalty. If begging, regardless of its form or manifestation, constitutes a crime under any other law, the harsher penalty shall be imposed.

**Disclaimer: This mat does not constitute legal advice; neither does it contain the entire legal procedures stipulated in the law. Also, the purpose of this mat is to draw attention to the significance of the law and its main provisions, however, it does not offer a substitute to careful and detailed legal advice**