

Social Security Law*

* Issued by the circular of the Minister of Justice No. 13/T/2943 dated 25.7.1427 H., the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 162 dated 6.7.1427 H. and the Royal Decree No. M/45 dated 7.7.1427 H.

Article 1

The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in the Law, shall have the meanings given opposite them, unless otherwise required by the context.

1. "Ministry" means the Ministry of Social Affairs.

2. "Minister" means the Minister of Social Affairs.

3. "Beneficiary" means any person (or family) covered by this Law.

4. "Eligibility" means:

a. Pension: The regular amount determined to be paid to the beneficiary under the provisions hereof.

b. Subsidy: The lump sum amount determined to be paid to the beneficiary under the provisions of article 13 hereof.

5. "Orphan" means any male or female person below 18 years of age whose father died and who has no resourceful supporter or a sufficient source of living. A person with no known father as well as the person whose father is absent without a known residence place for a period of more than six months will be considered as an orphan.

6. "Disabled" means any person medically certified as being unable to permanently or temporarily perform any work or his ability to perform suitable work has been diminished by a sickness or disability and has no resourceful supporter or a sufficient source of living.

7. "Aged" means every person over sixty years of age with no resourceful supporter or a sufficient source of living.

8. "Family" means any group consisting of a husband, a wife (or more) and their children or some members of this group.

9. "Unsupported Family" means any family having no supporter either due to death, divorce, loss, imprisonment, separation or otherwise without having a sufficient source of living.

10. "Supporter" means every resourceful person capable of supporting a person or persons whom he is legally bound to support.

11. "Health Care Centres" mean social care centres, hospitals or the like.

12. "Implementing Rules" mean the Implementing Rules of this law.

Article 2

This law shall apply to Saudis permanently residing in the Kingdom who meet the conditions stated herein. As an exception to the nationality clause, the provisions of this law shall apply to the expatriate wife of a Saudi man or his widow from whom he has children and the children of an expatriate woman married to a Saudi man. It shall also apply to the disabled widows having orphans and orphans who do not hold Saudi nationality documents but hold laissez-passer cards in accordance with the conditions provided for in the Implementing Rules.

Article 3

The following individuals or families shall benefit from the pension:

1. Orphans,
 2. Disabled persons,
 3. Aged persons,
 4. Women having no supporter,
- and
5. Families having no supporter.

The Implementing Rules will stipulate conditions of their eligibility and related necessary procedures. New categories may be added under a resolution by the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister.

Article 4

Payment shall continue for males over 18 years of age if they pursue their education and have no job up to the age of 26 or up to graduation, whichever comes earlier, and for females until they get married or are employed in accordance with the conditions provided for in the Implementing Rules.

Article 5

The annuity will not be paid to a beneficiary who does not support a family in case he is permanently admitted to a government or charity care or state-supported therapeutic centres.

Article 6

The annual pension for the first beneficiary is fixed at SR. 9400 along with SR. 3000 for each additional individual, provided that the total amount received by a family consisting of eight members shall not exceed SR. 31,100. This amount may be increased under a resolution by the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister.

Article 7

If the beneficiary receives a

regular income more than half the annuity determined for him, the amount exceeding half the income will be deducted, provided that the pension payment shall not be less than SR. 6,000. When necessary, the Minister may not deduct the said amount.

Article 8

The following shall not be considered as an income under the provisions of article 7 hereof:

1. Students' allowance,
2. Cash or in-kind subsidies paid to the beneficiary and his family from social or health institutions for medical treatment purposes,
3. Gifts, aids and charities, and
4. Subsidies disbursed in cases of disasters.

Article 9

The application for annuity shall be submitted to the social security office within the jurisdiction of which the applicant lives, accompanied with the necessary information and required documents that explain the condition of the applicant and his eligibility for the annuity. The Implementing Rules will state the required infor-

mation, documents and application procedures.

Article 10

The Ministry shall carry out the necessary investigation on the submitted applications in accordance with the procedures stated in the Implementing Rules. The Ministry shall also inform the applicant within sixty days from the date of application of the decision on accepting the application for annuity and the amount of annuity or rejecting the application with justifications. If no decision is given during the said period, the application will be considered as rejected.

Article 11

The annuity shall be paid to beneficiaries on a monthly basis.

Article 12

The Ministry shall regularly check the eligibility of the beneficiary and look for new eligible cases.

Article 13

The Minister or his designee may order payment of lump sum cash subsidies to cases which he deems eligible to the same, pro-

vided that the said amount shall not exceed SR. 30,000. The Implementing Rules shall state the applicable rules.

Article 14

The civil registration and official identity documents shall be considered the main source of information on all beneficiaries. Pertinent governmental and private agencies shall provide the Ministry, upon its request, with the information and data related to the conditions of applicants and beneficiaries.

Article 15

Governors of regions, provinces and centres shall cooperate with the Ministry's field committees in a manner that serves the interests of both beneficiaries and applicants.

Article 16

The beneficiary or his representative shall report to the concerned office any change that occurs to the socio-economic or health conditions of the beneficiary or those of his family entailing amendment or cancellation of their eligibility. In case of the change of the permanent place of

residence, the eligible individual or his representative shall inform the concerned office at his new place of residence.

Article 17

In collaboration with pertinent authorities, the Ministry will take necessary measures to enable rehabilitated beneficiaries to earn their living and support their productive projects in accordance with the rules specified in the Implementing Rules.

Article 18

The sources of the social security fund shall be as follows:

1. Amounts of zakat collected by the state,
2. Funds allocated from the state's treasury,
3. Amounts of *Zakat*, charities, donations, gifts and endowments in accordance with the regulating rules, and
4. Revenues of the investments of social security funds.

Article 19

Without prejudice to the penalties provided for under other laws, if any beneficiary receives any amounts from social security in an unlawful manner, the Ministry

shall claim recovery of the amounts paid to him in accordance with the procedures stated in the Implementing Rules.

Article 20

The Minister shall, upon issuing a resolution, form one or more committees consisting of three members representing the Ministry, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior; such members being holders of rank 10 or above posts. The said resolution shall name the chairman of the committee. The committee shall be concerned with considering the complaints submitted as to the rejection of applications, reduction of the entitled annuity or cancellation of the same or claiming for recovery of paid annuities. The decisions of the committee shall be approved by the Minister. The Implementing Rules shall lay down the committee's action plan.

Article 21

Any person against whom a resolution is issued rejecting his application, reducing or cancelling the annuity to which he is entitled or requesting him to re-

pay the annuity paid to him may file a complaint to the committee referred to under article 20 hereinabove within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of notification of the resolution. Complaints against the resolutions of the committee may be filed before the Board of Grievances within sixty (60) days from the date of notification of the resolution.

Article 22

The Minister shall issue the Implementing Rules of this law within a maximum period of ninety (90) days from the date of issue, and these Implementing Rules shall come into effect from the date of implementation of this law.

Article 23

This law shall replace the Social Security Law issued by the Royal Decree No. 19 dated 18.3.1382 H. and shall supersede any contradicting provisions.

Article 24

This law shall be brought into force ninety (90) days after publication in the official gazette.