

Law No. (5) of 2015
Concerning Disposition of Lost and
Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 Issuing the Civil Code of the United Arab Emirates and its amendments;

Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 Issuing the Penal Code and its amendments;

The Dubai Police Law of 1966 and its Implementing Bylaw No. (1) of 1984;

Law No. (34) of 2008 Concerning Disposition of Impounded Vehicles, Machinery, and Bikes and its amendments;

Law No. (35) of 2009 Concerning Management of the Public Funds of the Government of Dubai and its amendments; and

Local Order No. (11) of 2003 Concerning Public Health and Community Safety in the Emirate of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments,

Do hereby issue this Law.

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

Law No. (5) of 2015 Concerning Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (5) of 2015 Concerning Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai".

Definitions
Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

- Emirate: The Emirate of Dubai.
- DP: The Dubai Police.
- Commander-in-Chief: The commander-in-chief of the DP.
- Lost Property: Money and movables which may be legally possessed; are of inherent value, or of value for their Owner; are lost by their Owner without deliberate intention; and are found within the Emirate. This does not include stray animals.
- Owner: The legal owner or legal possessor of the Lost Property at the time of losing it.
- Finder: A person who finds Lost Property. This does not include any public servant assigned the task of searching for lost property as part of his employment duties.
- Abandoned Property: Money and movables which may be legally possessed, are of inherent value; and are intentionally left behind by their owner or legal possessor. This does not include stray animals.

Handing in Lost Property Article (3)

- a. Subject to criminal liability, a Finder must hand in the Lost Property to the DP within a maximum period of forty-eight (48) hours from the time of finding it, and must not dispose of it or possess it with the intention of acquiring ownership.
- b. The Lost Property will be received by the DP pursuant to a receiving report which contains the full description, and the condition, of the Lost Property; the details of the Finder; and any other information specified by the DP.

Functions of the DP Article (4)

For the purposes of this Law, the DP will have the duties and powers to:

1. receive reports concerning the loss of property and movables within the Emirate;
2. receive Lost Property and Abandoned Property and safekeep them in a suitable place;
3. maintain special records of the details and description of Lost Property and Abandoned Property; the date and time of finding or receiving them; the place where they are found or abandoned; the details of Finders; and any other information specified by the DP;
4. announce that Lost Property is in the DP's custody in the manner it deems appropriate;
5. estimate the cost of safekeeping, and making announcements on, Lost Property;
6. dispose of Lost Property and Abandoned Property in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof; and
7. perform any other duties required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Disposition of Lost Property Article (5)

- a. The DP will retain Lost Property for a period of not less than one (1) year from the date of finding it. Where this period lapses without identifying its Owner and without the Finder claiming it in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the DP may sell the Lost Property in accordance with the rules and procedures it adopts in this respect. The price of sale must be deposited in trust with the public treasury of the Government of Dubai.

- b. The price of sale of Lost Property will be paid to the Public Treasury of the Government of Dubai if its Owner does not claim that price within (15) fifteen years from the date of sale.
- c. Notwithstanding the period stated in paragraph (a) of this Article, the DP may, at any time, sell Lost Property and deposit its price in trust with the Public Treasury of the Government of Dubai if:
 - 1. it is perishable, or prone to damage or impairment;
 - 2. the cost of safekeeping the Lost Property exceeds its value; or
 - 3. it is of insignificant value.
- d. Where the period stated in paragraph (a) of this Article lapses without identifying the Owner of Lost Property that contains private photographs or information, the DP must handle it in the manner it deems appropriate, or else the Lost Property must be destroyed.
- e. Where Lost Property cannot be sold due to its nature or insignificant value, the DP may dispose of it in the manner it deems appropriate, including by way of donation of the same to charities, museums, public libraries, and other entities.

Reclaiming Lost Property Article (6)

- a. An Owner has the right to reclaim his Lost Property before it is disposed of by the DP.
- b. An Owner may claim the sale price of his Lost Property within the period mentioned in paragraph (b) of Article (5) of this Law where it has been sold by the DP.
- c. Where the Lost Property is disposed of without consideration in accordance with paragraph (e) of Article (5) of this Law, its Owner will have the right to trace it into the hands of third parties.
- d. Where more than one person claims the ownership of Lost Property, it will be delivered, or its price be paid, to the person in whose favour the competent court delivers a final judgement to this effect.
- e. In the absence of a legitimate excuse, no claim for Lost Property or its price may be heard after the lapse of (15) fifteen years from the date of finding it.
- f. The Lost Property or its price will be delivered to the Owner after payment of the cost of safekeeping and announcing it, and the DP's estimation of this cost will be deemed final.

Rights and Obligations of Finders Article (7)

- a. Subject to the rules and conditions prescribed by the relevant resolution of the Commander-in-Chief, a Finder may be granted any of the following:
 1. a certificate of appreciation from the DP in recognition of his honesty; or
 2. a financial reward amounting to (10%) of the value of the Lost Property, but not exceeding fifty thousand dirhams (AED 50,000). This reward will be deducted from the value of the Lost Property regardless of whether its Owner claims it or not.
- b. A Finder may claim to retain the Lost Property one (1) year after the date of finding it if the Lost Property Owner is not found, in accordance with the relevant rules and guarantees prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief.
- c. A Finder must maintain the Lost Property delivered to him by the DP and return it to its Owner when requested.

Abandoned Property and Items Article (8)

- a. The DP will dispose of the property and items listed below, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, without the need to announce them or wait for the period referred to in paragraph (a) of Article (5) of this Law to lapse:
 1. property and items which are prohibited from being carried or shipped on board aircraft, trains, ships, and other means of public transport; and which are abandoned by their owners at airports, stations, ports, and border crossing points;
 2. property and items which are abandoned by inmates of punitive and correctional institutions and which remain unclaimed by these persons for sixty (60) days after the date of their release;
 3. property and items which are abandoned by their owners in public places and at government entities and which remain unclaimed for sixty (60) days after they are abandoned; and
 4. impounded or seized property and items in respect of which a release or cancellation of seizure decision is issued by the competent entity, and which remain unclaimed by their owners for sixty (60) days after the date of that decision.

- b. The DP will issue a report containing the description of the property and items stated in paragraph (a) of this Article, the entity from which they are received, and any other information the DP deems important to record.
- c. The price of sale of the property and items referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article will be paid to the public treasury of the Government of Dubai.

Cooperation with the DP Article (9)

All government entities in the Emirate must fully cooperate and coordinate with the DP to enable it to implement the provisions of this Law. This includes handing in to the DP any Lost Property or Abandoned Property these entities may find.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions Article (10)

The Commander-in-Chief will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Law.

Repeals Article (11)

Any provision in any other legislation will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

Publication and Commencement Article (12)

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 11 April 2015
Corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1436 A.H.