Law Decree no. (21) of 1989 Regarding the Regulation of Marriage to Foreigners

(Section: Articles (1-13)

Article 1

(As amended by Article 1 of Law No. 8 of 2005)

Qatari citizens from any of the categories set out below are not allowed to marry persons of foreign nationalities except citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC

a) Ministers and Deputy Ministers, heads of boards of institutions, public bodies and their deputies
b) The diplomatic staff and consular corps
c) Subject to the approval of the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Interior or the competent head of security, as the situation may require; officers, non-commissioned officers and members of the Armed Forces, Police and other security agencies, with the exception of the cases where the wife is of the categories in Article 3 (b) of the present Law
d) Students on scholarship who are studying abroad, whether supported by the State or studying at their own expense

The Council of Ministers may decide to add some public offices and other functions to the aforementioned categories, as the public interest may require

In all cases, at the Emir’s discretion and whenever public interest so requires, some Qatari citizens who are married to a foreign national may be exempted from the prohibition provided for in this Article

Article 2

Subject to the approval of the Minister of Interior, any Qatari male not belonging to one of the categories specified in Article 1 of the present law may marry foreign nationals on the following conditions

.a) There must be social reasons calling for such a marriage
b) The age difference between the Qatari male and the female foreign national must be appropriate
c) The Qatari male must be free from Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD
d) The Qatari male must not be having more than one wife, or divorced more than one wife
e) He must not have been convicted of a crime carrying a custodial sentence or involving dishonesty or immoral behaviour in the State of Qatar
f) The Qatari male must be financially viable to support his dependents

For a foreign national female intending to marry a Qatari

.a) Must be free from Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD
b) Must have not been convicted of a crime carrying a custodial sentence or involving dishonesty or immoral behaviour in the State of Qatar
c) Must not be included in the lists of persons barred from entering the State of Qatar

Article 3
(Replaced by Article 1 of Law No. 11 of 1994)

: The conditions stipulated in Article 2-1 of the present Law shall not apply in the following cases

a. If the intended female marriage partner is a national of one of the Gulf Cooperati Council States
b. If the woman is a cousin of the Qatari male
c. If the woman is born of a Qatari mother

Article 4

Subject to the approval of the Minister of the Interior and the consent of her legal guardian, any Qatari female not belonging to any of the categories specified in Article 1 of the present law may marry a foreign national for social reasons on the following conditions:

a) the foreign male must be free from Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)
b) the foreign male must not have been convicted of a crime carrying a custodial sentence or involving dishonesty or immoral behaviour in the State of Qatar
.c) must not be included in the lists of persons barred from entering the State of Qatar
d) the foreign male must be financially viable to support his dependents

Article 5

The marriage of any Qatari citizen to a foreign national prior to the date this Law has come to force, shall be valid provided that the marriage has been officially authenticated, in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Law, and that the foreign spouse meets the following conditions:

a) That the foreign national is free from Sexually Transmitted Diseases
b) Not to have been convicted of a crime carrying a custodial sentence or involving dishonesty or immoral behaviour
c) That the foreign national is not included in the lists of persons barred from entering the country
d) That the foreign national is financially viable to support all his dependents

The marriage shall be sanctioned by a decision from the Minister of Interior. Applications of foreign marriages seeking approval shall be submitted to the Ministry of Interior, accompanied by the required documents, within a period of three months from the effective date of this law. This period may be extended, where appropriate, to a similar period or longer by the Minister of Interior.

Article 6

Subject to the provision of authenticated documentation, any Qatari female whose foreign husband has died or permanently left the country prior to the effective date of this Law, may request the endorsement of her marriage from the Ministry of Interior, provided that the marriage was in accordance with the provisions of Islamic Law.

The marriage shall be endorsed by a decision of the Minister of the Interior. Applications for the endorsement of marriages to foreign nationals shall be submitted to the Ministry of Interior, accompanied by the required documents as detailed in Article 6-1 of this law.
within three months from the effective date of the present law.

The Minister of Interior reserves the right to extend this period .6-4.

The decision to endorse any marriage to a foreign national shall entail the following:

.a) When the mother lives in Qatar, granting the children Qatari residence
   .b) Granting Qatari travelling documents to minor children
   .c) Children shall be treated as Qatars in relation to education, healthcare and employment
   .d) Adult children shall have priority in the acquisition of Qatari nationality

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Article 7

All marriages which are in violation of this law after its enactment shall be deemed null and .7-1 void. Violators of this law after its enactment will face legal consequences.

Without prejudice to the disciplinary action determined by the Law and regulations in this .7-2 regard, the competent authority shall take the necessary legal measures against anyone who violates this law from the first three categories in Article 1 of this law as follows:

.a) Removal from office
   .b) Termination of employment
   .c) Transferred to another job

Any student benefiting from scholarship who violates this law will have his scholarship .7-3 cancelled. Furthermore he/she will be required to refund all expenses and salaries which were accrued to him/her from the scholarship. In all cases, the offender shall be deprived of the benefit of the aforementioned provisions of the Law No. 1 of 1964 and the Decree No. 7 of 1977.

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Article 8

(As amended by Article 1 of the Council of Ministers Decision No. 36 of 2007)

Applications for approval of marriages to foreign nationals or the endorsement thereof in accordance with the provisions of the present Law, shall be considered by a Commission formed of:

a) Two representatives from the Ministry of Interior, one, a Chairman of the Commission and the other, a rapporteur of the Commission
   .b) One representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
   .c) One representative of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
   .d) One representative of the Ministry of Justice
   .e) One representative of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs

The Council of Ministers may amend the membership of the Commission .8-2

Representatives mentioned in Article 8.1 shall be nominated by their respective bodies. The .8-3 Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for the appointment of the chairperson of the commission, members and the rapporteur.

Furthermore the Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for assigning the operations and .8-4 procedures of the commission.
All recommendations made by the commission shall be submitted to the Minister of Interior for his/her final decision on the applications.

Article 9

The applicant shall be notified of the result of the application by a registered letter from the Minister of Interior, whether the application has been accepted or rejected.

The application shall be deemed to be rejected if three (3) months have elapsed since the submission with no response.

Article 10

The applicant may appeal against the decision to reject the application for approval or endorsement of the marriage within thirty days from the date of notification of rejection, or when three (3) months have elapsed since the submission of the application with no response.

All appeal applications must be submitted to the Minister of Interior. The decision of the minister of Interior regarding the appeal shall be final and cannot be further appealed to any other body.

Article 11

The Minister of Interior may issue decisions necessary to implement the present Law, in accordance with its provisions and for the achievement of purposes thereof.

Article 12

Any provision contrary to the provisions of the present Law shall be rendered invalid.

Article 13

All competent authorities, each within its own competence, shall implement this Law. The present law shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.