

# Oman

## National Child Protection Legislation

### National Legislation

- Age of Child: **under 18 years of age**  
[Child Act 2014 - Royal Decree No. 22/2014](#)  
**Art. 1**  
D) Child – every human being who has not yet reached 18 years of age.
  
- Age of Consent: **18 years of age (but must be married)**  
[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)  
**Art. 264**  
For the purposes of the provisions of this Chapter, consent is not recognised if the victim has not completed (18) eighteen years of age.  
  
**Art. 259**  
He who engages in sexual intercourse with a female, with her consent, **in the absence of a contract of marriage**, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (6) six months and not exceeding (3) three years. The female shall be punished by the same punishment.  
  
If either of them is married, the punishment shall be no less than (2) two years for both of them. Knowledge of the marriage is presumed unless established otherwise.  
...
  
- Age of Marriage: **18 years of age**  
[Personal Status Law](#)  
**Art. 7**  
Marriage shall be completed by reason and shall be 18 years of age.
  
- Age of Criminal Responsibility: **9 years of age**  
[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)  
**Art. 49**  
Whoever has not completed nine years of age at the time of the commission of the crime shall not be criminally liable. The estimation of age is not recognised without an official document, and in the absence of such a document, age shall be estimated by the means of the competent body.

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- **Extraterritoriality**

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 18**

The provisions of this Law shall apply to every Omani citizen who commits outside the State an act that is considered a felony or misdemeanour in accordance with this Law, if he returns

to the State, and the act is punishable in the state in which the crime was committed by imprisonment for a period no less than a year, even if he loses or obtains Omani citizenship after he committed the crime, unless it is proven that he was tried abroad, and found innocent or guilty, and served the sentence or the sentence was nullified or the proceedings have expired. If Omani law and the law of the place of the crime differ, such difference shall be observed in favour of the accused.

- **Dual Criminality**

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 18**

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- **Mandatory reporting requirements**

[Child Act 2014 - Royal Decree No. 22/2014](#)

**Art. 62**

Every person shall have the right to report any incident that constitutes an act of violence, exploitation or abuse against a child, or a violation of any of his or her rights which are stipulated by the present law. Child Protection Committees must take all necessary measures to protect the reporting person and ensure his or her anonymity.

**Art. 63**

Physicians, teachers and other individuals, to the attention of whom, by virtue of their profession, occupation or activities, comes a case of violence, exploitation or abuse against any child or violation of any of his or her rights which are stipulated by the present law should report such case to the Child Protection Committees.

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 92**

Whoever has knowledge of the commission of a crime against State security and does not promptly notify public authorities of it shall be punished for a period no less than (6) six months and not exceeding (3) three years.

**Art. 93**

Whoever takes initiative in notifying public authorities prior to the commencement of the execution of the crime is exempt from the punishments prescribed for crimes against the State. It is permitted to exempt from punishment if the notification occurs after execution of the crime, or during the course of the investigation procedures, if that would contribute to the arrest of the other perpetrators of the crime, or the perpetrators of another similar crime.

**Art. 196**

Every public official, assigned to search for or detect crimes, who neglects or delays reporting a crime connected to his knowledge, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a year and not exceeding (3) three years, and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (500) five hundred Rial Omani.

Every public official, not assigned to search for or detect crimes, who neglects or delays reporting to competent authorities a crime he is aware of as a result of his office, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a month and not exceeding a year, and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (300) three hundred Rial Omani.

There shall be no crime if the commencement of prosecution in the cases stipulated in the preceding Paragraphs is conditional on a complaint or a request.

**Art. 225**

Whoever knows of the commission of a felony, or the existence of an attempt of its commission, at a time at which it would have been possible to prevent it, and refrains without an acceptable excuse to report it to competent authorities, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a month and not exceeding (6) six months and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (300) three hundred Rial Omani, or one of those two punishments. This Article does not apply to the spouse, ascendants, or descendants of the offender.

**Art. 226**

Whoever wilfully refrains from rendering assistance to persons in danger threatening them, their property, or their honour, and the person refraining to render assistance is capable of rendering it and does not fear danger to himself in rendering it, that person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a month and not exceeding a year, and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (1,000) one thousand Rial Omani, or one of those two punishments.

**Art. 227**

Whoever in the course of practising a medical profession examines a deceased or an injured person, and signs are found or circumstances are available that call for suspicion in the cause of death or injury, and does not take initiative to report it to competent authorities, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a month and not exceeding a year, and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (500) five hundred Rial Omani, or one of those two punishments.

▪ **Statute of Limitations**

[Criminal Procedure Code](#)

**Art. 16**

The public prosecution shall lapse with the passage of 20 years in offenses where the sentence is execution or life imprisonment, 10 years in other offenses, three years in acts of misdemeanor, and one year in infractions, starting in all cases from the day of the commission of the offense.

This shall not apply to offenses referred to in Articles 155 to 161 of the Penal Code, where the period shall commence from the date on which an employee's service ends or his official capacity ceases.

■ **Obligations of Educational Institutions**

*Sultanate of Oman - The Ministry of Education*

[Concerning the Regulation of Schools of General Education Ministerial Decree No. 21/93](#)

**Art. 11 – Teacher's duties**

Classroom management means:

...

- 5) Treatment of student problems through the use of effective methods of cooperation with the social worker or the school administration board.

...

**Art. 12 – Tasks and areas of the social worker**

...

- b) To take care to provide for the values of cooperation, affection, openness, understanding, respect and appreciation between students, and students and their teachers, whether in school or on the school playground, and to ensure that violence, bullying, abuse and contempt disappears from school, and that in the school there is an atmosphere of friendliness, tolerance and relationships.

■ **Prohibition to hold certain positions**

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 56**

A punishment is deemed ancillary if the law orders it as an inevitable effect of the adjudication of the principal punishment. The punishment is deemed complementary if its imposition is contingent on its pronouncement by the judge if the law permits him to impose it.

**Art. 57**

Ancillary or complementary punishments are:

- (a) deprivation of some or all rights and privileges stipulated in Article 58 of this Law.
- (b) confiscation.
- (c) ban of residence in a particular place or frequenting it.
- (d) ban from professional practice.**
- (e) licence revocation.**
- (f) deportation of aliens.
- (g) closure of the venue or establishment.
- (h) dissolution of the juristic person.
- (i) placing under police surveillance.
- (j) publication of the sentence.
- (k) assignment to perform a public service.

**Art. 58**

Adjudicating an applicable punishment for a felony entails, by the power of law from the time of its issuance, depriving the convict throughout the period of execution of the punishment, and for a period of a year thereafter, of the following rights and privileges:

- (a) assuming public office.
- (b) membership of councils, authorities, and public establishments, boards of directors of public joint stock companies, or assuming the position of a manager thereof.
- (c) the right to be elected or to vote.
- (d) the right to own, publish, and edit newspapers.
- (e) assuming custodianship or guardianship of minors and those equivalent.
- (f) **management of schools and educational institutions, and practising any educational activity therein.**
- (g) bearing ordinances, medals, and honorary titles.
- (h) carrying arms.

▪ **Employment Law**

[Decree No. 35/2003 Issuing the Labor Law](#)

**Art. 40**

The employer may dismiss the employee without notice and without paying end of service gratuity in any of the following cases:-

...

- 6. If the employee is finally convicted of a crime or misdemeanour involving breach of honour or trust or a misdemeanour committed in the place of work or while the work is being performed.

...

▪ **Criminal Law - Defamation**

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 224**

Whoever attributes a crime to a person with knowledge that he did not commit it, or fabricates evidence of him committing the crime, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (3) three months and not exceeding (3) three years, and a fine no less than (300) three hundred Rial Omani, and not exceeding (1,000) one thousand Rial Omani.

If the calumny results in sentencing the calumniated to punishment, the punishment of the calumniator shall not be less than that. If the calumny results in the adjudication of the death sentence, and the sentence has been executed, then the punishment of the calumniator shall be the death penalty or life imprisonment.

It shall be an extenuating excuse if the calumniator retracts his calumny prior to prosecution.

In all cases, the perpetrator shall be responsible for resulting expenses.

**Art. 326**

Whoever defames another by attributing to him, using a means of publicity, an incident that subjects him to ridicule, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a month

and not exceeding a year, and a fine no less than (500) five hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (1,000) one thousand Rial Omani, or one of those two punishments.

**Art. 327**

Whoever publicly insults another, by directing at him phrases that violate his honour or dignity, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (10) ten days and not exceeding (6) six months, and a fine no less than (200) two hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (500) five hundred Rial Omani, or one of those two punishments.

**Art. 328**

If the defamation or insult occurs in confrontation with the victim, without publicity, he shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (10) ten days, and not exceeding (3) three months, and a fine no less than (100) one hundred Rial Omani and not exceeding (300) three hundred Rial Omani, or one of those two punishment.

▪ **Private Fostering**

No information found.

Sexual Offenses Against Children

[Royal Decree No. 7/2018 – Penal Code](#)

**Art. 254**

Whoever incites, lures into, seduces to, entices to, or assists a person in, using any means, prostitution or debauchery, and this leads to the commission of the act, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (3) three years and not exceeding (7) seven years.

If the crime is committed by duress, threat, or trickery, if the assaulted has not completed (18) eighteen years of age, or if the perpetrator is one of his ascendants, responsible for his upbringing or caretaking, or has authority over him, the punishment shall be imprisonment up to (10) ten years.

**Art. 257**

Whoever engages in sexual intercourse, without consent, with a male or female, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than (10) ten years and not exceeding (15) fifteen years.

If the victim is under (15) fifteen years of age, if the victim suffers from physical or mental disability that renders him unable to resist, if the act causes chronic venereal disease, if the act leads to his death, if the offender is responsible for his upbringing, supervision, caretaking, or is someone who has authority over him, if the victim is a paid employee of his or of any of those previously mentioned, or if the crime is committed by (2) two persons or more, the punishment shall be life imprisonment.

**Art. 258**

Whoever sexually assaults, without consent, a male or female shall be punished by imprisonment for a period no less than a year and not exceeding (3) three years.

If the victim suffers from physical or mental disability that renders him unable to resist, if the offender is responsible for his upbringing, supervision, caretaking, or is someone who has authority over him,

or if the victim is a paid employee of his or of any of those previously mentioned, the punishment shall be no less than (5) five years and not exceeding (7) seven years.

If the offender is a Mahram of the victim, the punishment shall be no less than (7) seven years and not exceeding (10) ten years.

**Art. 263**

Sexual intercourse shall be deemed complete upon the penetration of the male organ, however slight, into the genital or anal opening whether or not accompanied by the ejaculation of semen.

**Art. 264**

For the purposes of the provisions of this Chapter, consent is not recognised if the victim has not completed (18) eighteen years of age.

[Royal Decree No 12/2011 Issuing the Cyber Crime Law](#)

**Art. 14**

The penalty of imprisonment for a period not less than one month and not exceeding one year and a fine not less than OMR one hundred and not exceeding OMR one thousand or by either penalty, shall be applied to any person who uses the informational network or information technology facilities to produce or procure or distribute or make available or transmit or sell or purchase or import pornography materials, unless such actions were permitted for scientific or technical purposes. The punishment shall be for a period not less than one year and not exceeding three years and a fine not less than OMR one thousand and not exceeding OMR five thousand if the subject matter of the pornography program is a juvenile of less than eighteen years of age or if the criminal act is directed at him and the same punishment shall be applied to any person who uses the informational network or the information technology facilities to possess juvenile pornography.

**Art. 15**

The penalty of temporary imprisonment for a period not less than three years and not exceeding five years and a fine not less than OMR three thousand and not exceeding OMR five thousand, shall be applied to any person who uses the informational network or information technology facilities to incite or instigate a male or a female to commit a lechery or a prostitution crime or to help him to commit such a crime. The punishment of temporary imprisonment for a period not less than five years and not exceeding ten years and the fine of not less than OMR five thousand and not exceeding OMR ten thousand shall be applied if the victim is a juvenile having not yet completed eighteen years of age.

[Child Act 2014 - Royal Decree No. 22/2014](#)

**Art. 7**

The child has the right to protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as the right to humane and decent treatment that preserves his or her dignity, reputation and honor; and the State will ensure his or her enjoyment of the said rights by all available means.

**Art. 56**

It is prohibited to any person to undertake any of the following acts:

- a. The abduction or sale of a child, or removal of any of his or her organs in any way, whether or not for consideration;
- b. Rape, non-violent indecent assault or sexual harassment against a child;

- c. The incitement or coercion of a child to engage in any sexual activity, or the exploitation of a child in prostitution, any other sexual practices or any pornographic performances or material;
- d. The encouragement of a child to engage in real sexual intercourse or a simulation of sexual intercourse, filming him or her during such act or filming his or her sexual organs for immoral purposes – in any way whatsoever;
- e. The publication, offer, distribution or possession of audio or visual work of art that panders the basest instincts of the children or projects an attractive image of behavior that contravenes social values, the law, or public order or morals;
- f. The employment of children in all forms of slave trade, servitude, or forced or compulsory labor;
- g. Child trafficking, facilitation of child flight across borders for exploitation purposes or to practice any form of violence against him or her;
- h. The exercise of any form of violence against a child.

The government shall ensure the implementation of the prohibition stipulated by the previous provisions and the adoption of all necessary procedures and measures to this end.

#### **Art. 59**

The State shall seek, by all available means, to rehabilitate child victims of any sort of violence, exploitation or abuse and socially reintegrate them.

#### **Art. 60**

Committees for child protection against violence, exploitation and abuse called (Child Protection Committees) shall be formed, pursuant to a decision issued by the Minister. This decision shall set out the terms of reference and working mechanism of the said committees, without any prejudice to the provisions of the present law. The members of (the Child Protection Committees) shall enjoy judicial enforcement powers with regards to the implementation of the provisions of the present law.

#### **Art. 61**

The Child Protection Committees shall be competent to receive complaints and reports about child rights violations and cases of violence, exploitation or abuse against children, as prescribed by the regulation.

#### **Art. 62**

Every person shall have the right to report any incident that constitutes an act of violence, exploitation or abuse against a child, or a violation of any of his or her rights which are stipulated by the present law. Child Protection Committees must take all necessary measures to protect the reporting person and ensure his or her anonymity.

#### **Art. 63**

Physicians, teachers and other individuals, to the attention of whom, by virtue of their profession, occupation or activities, comes a case of violence, exploitation or abuse against any child or violation of any of his or her rights which are stipulated by the present law should report such case to the Child Protection Committees.

### [Anti-Human Trafficking Act – Royal Decree No. 126/2008](#)

#### **Art. 1**

In application of the provisions of this Law the following terms shall have the meanings indicated against each unless otherwise provided for in the text:

**Human Trafficking Crime:** To carry out any of the acts mentioned in Article 2 of this Law.



**Exploitation:** Illegal use of a person, including prostitution, any form of sexual exploitation, serfdom, forced labour, enslavement, practices similar to slavery, enslavement, or illegal removal of organs.

**Minor:** Any person, male or female, under the age of 18. The age is considered in the Gregorian calendar.

#### **Art. 2**

Any person shall be deemed committing a human trafficking crime if they intentionally or for the purpose of exploitation:

- a. Use, transfer, shelter, or receive a person by coercion, under threat, trick, exploitation of position or power, exploitation of weakness, by use of authority over that person, or by any other illegal means directly or indirectly.
- b. Use, transfer, shelter or receive a minor, even if the means mentioned in the preceding paragraph are not used.

#### **Art. 3**

No consideration shall be given to the victim's consent in any of the following circumstances:

- a. If any of the means mentioned in Article 2 hereinabove is used.
- b. If the victim is a minor.
- c. If the victim is in a circumstantial or personal situation in which their consent or discretion cannot be put into consideration.

#### **Art. 8**

Whoever commits a human trafficking crime shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three years and not more than 7 years, and a fine of not less than five thousand Rials and not more than one hundred thousand Rials.

#### **Art. 9**

A human trafficking crime shall be punishable by imprisonment for not less than seven years and not more than 15 years, and a fine of not less than ten thousand Rials and not more than one hundred thousand Rials in any of the following cases:

- a. Where the victim is a minor or one of special need.
- b. Where the culprit carries an arm.
- c. Where the crime has been committed by more than one person.
- d. Where the culprit is the spouse of the victim, one of their ascendants, descendants, their guardian or has power over them.
- e. Where the crime is committed by an organized criminal group, or the culprit is a member thereof.
- f. Where the culprit is a public employee or being assigned to public service, and exploited their post in committing the crime.
- g. Where the crime is transnational.
- h. Where because of being exploited in the human trafficking crime the victim becomes mad, contracts AIDS, or suffers an untreatable psychological or organic disease.

Whoever forms, establishes, organizes, manages, holds a leading position in or calls for membership of an organized criminal group, which trafficking in persons is its aim or one of its aims.

#### **Art. 11**

Whoever is aware of the commitment of a crime of trafficking in persons and fails to inform the authorities even if they are in charge of job secrets, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less

than six months and not more than three years, and a fine of not less than three hundred Rials and not more than one thousand Rials. The punishment may be waived if the person who fails to report the crime is the spouse, an ascendant or descendant of the culprit.

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)/Female Genital Circumcision**

*There is no legislation prohibiting the practice.*

For more information, see: <https://wadi-online.org/2018/09/01/new-study-almost-100-percent-women-mutilated-in-region-of-oman-time-to-act/>.

- **Child/Early/Forced Marriage**

[Personal Status Law](#)

**Art. 16**

The elements of a Marriage Contract:

- A – Offer and acceptance.
- B – The guardian.
- C – Dowry.
- D – Evidence.

**Art. 17**

Subject to the provisions of Article (19) of this law, the marriage shall be valid with the offer by one party to the contract and the acceptance of the other as expression of their agreement in words that express the meaning either customarily or verbally, and in case of inability to speak, writing can suffice.