

**Administrative Resolution No. (1) of 2016**  
**Concerning the Requirements and Rules**  
**Related to Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai<sup>1</sup>**

---

**The Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police,**

After perusal of:

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; and

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

**Does hereby issue this Resolution.**

**Definitions**  
**Article (1)**

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

|          |                                                                                            |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UAE:     | The United Arab Emirates.                                                                  |
| Emirate: | The Emirate of Dubai.                                                                      |
| DP:      | The Dubai Police.                                                                          |
| CID:     | The Criminal Investigation Department.                                                     |
| Centre:  | Any of the centres, offices, or police stations affiliated to the DP; or similar entities. |

---

©2021 The Supreme Legislation Committee in the Emirate of Dubai

<sup>1</sup>*Every 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:                | Law No. (5) of 2015 Concerning Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai.                                                                                                                                  |
| 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. |
| 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.                                                 |
| 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.                                                                       |
| Programme:          | An electronic system designated for Lost Property and Abandoned Property.                                                                                                                                                           |

### **Functions of the DP Article (2)**

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

1. receive reports concerning the loss of property and other things in the Emirate;
2. receive the Lost Property and Abandoned Property; and safekeep the same 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 location where they are found or abandoned; the details of Finders and any other information the DP deems required;
4. estimate the costs of safekeeping, making announcements on, and disposing of Lost Property; and
5. perform any other duties required for the implementation of the provisions of the Law and this Resolution.

### **Programme Article (3)**

An electronic system will be maintained by the DP for managing all matters related to handing over, safekeeping, and making announcements on Lost Property and Abandoned Property. The concerned entities in the Emirate will be linked to this system.

### **Reporting the Loss of Property and Other Things Article (4)**

The loss of any property or things will be reported as follows:

1. The Owner or his legal representative will submit a loss report to a Centre on the form prescribed by the DP for this purpose.
2. A detailed description, that leaves no room for uncertainty, of the lost property or things will be provided.
3. Proof of ownership of the lost property or things, if any, will be provided by the person filing the loss report.
4. All data and information of the lost property or things will be recorded in Programme.

### **Handing in Lost Property Article (5)**

- a. A Finder must hand in the Lost Property to a Centre within forty-eight (48) hours of finding it.
- b. The Centre will receive the Lost Property pursuant to a receiving report that contains the description and condition of the Lost Property; the identity information of the Finder; and the date, time, and place of finding the Lost Property. The details of the Lost Property will be recorded in the Programme.

### **Safekeeping Lost Property and Abandoned Property Article (6)**

- a. The DP will retain Lost Property for a period of not less than one (1) year from the date of finding it.

- b. Where the Owner of the Lost Property is not identified within one (1) year from the date on which it is found, the DP may hand it over to the Finder, upon his request, subject to the following:
  - 1. The Finder must sign an undertaking to preserve the Lost Property and to refrain from disposing thereof or moving it to outside of the Emirate.
  - 2. The Finder must, based on the type of the Lost Property, provide a suitable place to safekeep it within the Emirate.
  - 3. The Finder must nominate a guarantor who is aware of the place where the Lost Property is kept and undertakes to hand it over to the DP or to its Owner where required.
  - 4. Where the Finder is not a UAE national, he must hold a valid residence permit in the Emirate.
  - 5. The Finder must undertake to hand in the Lost Property to the DP where its Owner is identified or where the Finder is a non-UAE national and intends to leave the UAE.
- c. Where a Finder fails to comply with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article, he may be criminally prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Federal Law No. (3) of 1987.
- d. The DP will have the right to view the Lost Property and verify that it is in the possession of the Finder, and may request retaking its possession at any time.
- e. The DP will, in coordination with the concerned government entities, determine the method of safekeeping the Abandoned Property which is in the possession of these entities until such property is disposed of by the DP pursuant to the Law and this Resolution.

### **Announcements on Lost Property Article (7)**

The DP will make announcements on Lost Property in the manner, and using the means, it deems suitable, including electronic means.

### **Sale of Lost Property and Abandoned Property Article (8)**

- a. Where the one year period prescribed for retaining Lost Property lapses without identifying its Owner or reclaiming it by the Finder, the DP may sell it through a committee formed

pursuant to a resolution of the Commander-in-Chief of the DP for this purpose. The resolution forming this committee will determine the functions and terms of reference of the committee.

- b. The DP may dispose of the following property and things without the need to make announcements on the same and before the lapse of the one year retention period:
  - 1. Lost Property that is perishable, or prone to damage or impairment;
  - 2. lost and abandoned property and things whose value is insignificant, or whose safekeeping and announcement costs exceed their value;
  - 3. property and things which are prohibited from being carried or shipped on board aircraft, trains, ships, buses, and other means of public transport; and which are abandoned by their owners at airports, stations, ports, and border crossing points;
  - 4. property and things 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;
  - 5. property and things which are abandoned in public places and facilities and which remain unclaimed for sixty (60) days after they are abandoned;
  - 6. impounded or seized property and things in respect of which a release or cancellation of seizure decision is issued, and which remain unclaimed by their owners for sixty (60) days after the date of that decision; and
  - 7. property and things abandoned by the guests of hotel establishments and which remain unclaimed for more than sixty (60) days.

### **Reclaiming Lost Property Article (9)**

- 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 Lost Property within fifteen (15) years from the date of being disposed of by the DP.
- c. Where Lost Property is disposed of without consideration due to its special nature or insignificant value; or where it is donated to charities, museums, public libraries, or other entities, the Owner of that Lost Property will be entitled to trace it into the hands of third parties.

- d. Where more than one person claims the ownership of Lost Property, it will be handed over, 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 on which it is found.
- f. The Lost Property or its sale price will be handed over to its Owner after payment of the costs of safekeeping, making announcements on, and disposing of such property. The DP's estimation of these costs will be deemed final.

### **Appreciation Article (10)**

- a. A Finder may be granted a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the DP in recognition of his honesty. The Finder may also be granted a financial reward amounting to (10%) of the value of the Lost Property. The amount of this reward may not exceed fifty thousand dirhams (AED 50,000.00), and it will be deducted from the value of the Lost Property, whether or not the Owner reclaims the Lost Property or claims its price.
- b. In granting a Finder a financial reward, the following must be observed:
  - 1. The Owner and Finder must not be relatives, where the Owner is identified.
  - 2. The Finder must comply with his obligations under the Law and this Resolution.
  - 3. The value of the Lost Property must not be insignificant.
- c. The reward granted to a Finder will be recovered where it is established that he has failed to comply with any of the rules referred to by paragraph (b) of this Article.

### **Issuing Implementing Instructions Article (11)**

The Director of the CID will issue the instructions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Resolution.

**Commencement and Publication**  
**Article (12)**

This Resolution comes into force on the day on which it is issued, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

**Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police**

**Major General Expert Khamis Mattar Al Mazeina**

Issued in Dubai on 9 February 2016

Corresponding to 30 Rabi al-Thani 1437 A.H.