Law No. (17) of 2025
Concerning
Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai[1]

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 Decree No. (15) of 2022 Ratifying the Common Customs Regulation (Law) of the Gulf Cooperation Council States, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Federal Law by Decree No. (29) of 2021 Concerning Entry and Residence of Foreigners, and its Implementing Bylaw and its amendments;

Dubai Police Law of 1966 and its Implementing Bylaw;

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

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai, its Implementing Bylaw, and their amendments;

Law No. (9) of 2022 Regulating the Provision of Digital Services in the Emirate of Dubai; and

Law No. (26) of 2023 Concerning the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (17) of 2025 Concerning Disposition of Lost and Abandoned Property in the Emirate of Dubai".

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[1] *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.*

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.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate.
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 natural person or a public or private legal 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 deliberately, expressly, or implicitly abandoned by their owner or legal possessor. This does not include stray animals.

Functions of the DP
Article (3)

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 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 place where they are found or abandoned; the details of Finders; and any other information specified by the DP;
4. develop an electronic system for the registration of Lost Property and Abandoned Property;

5. announce that Lost Property is in the DP's custody in the manner it deems appropriate;

6. estimate the cost of safekeeping and making announcements on Lost Property;

7. dispose of Lost Property and Abandoned Property in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof; and

8. exercise any other duties or powers required for implementing the provisions of this Law, as assigned to it by the Ruler or the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Surrendering Lost Property
Article (4)

a. A Finder must:

    1. register the Lost Property or Abandoned Property in the electronic system developed by the DP for this purpose within twenty-four (24) hours of finding it and hand it over to the DP no later than forty-eight (48) hours of finding it. He may not dispose of or possess the Lost Property or Abandoned Property with the intent to acquire ownership thereof, subject to criminal liability;

    2. cooperate and coordinate with the DP to enable it to implement the provisions of this Law; and

    3. fulfil any other obligations determined pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Commander-in-Chief.

b. The Lost Property will be received by the DP pursuant to a receiving report which contains the description, and the condition, of the Lost Property; the details of the Finder; the date and place of finding it; and any other information specified by the DP.

Disposition of Lost Property
Article (5)

a. The DP will retain Lost Property for a period of not less than three (3) months 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 proceeds of sale must be deposited in trust with the Public Treasury Account of the Government of Dubai.

b. The proceeds of sale of Lost Property will be paid to the Public Treasury Account of the Government of Dubai if its Owner does not claim them within three (3) 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 sale proceeds in trust with the Public Treasury Account 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 such property in the manner it deems appropriate, otherwise the Lost Property will 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 proceeds 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 in the hands of third parties.

d. Where more than one person claims the ownership of Lost Property, it will be handed over, or its sale proceeds will be paid, to the person in whose favour the competent court delivers a final judgment to this effect. The court must issue such judgment on a summary basis.

e. In the absence of a legitimate excuse, no claim for Lost Property or its price may be heard after the lapse of three (3) years from the date of the announcement of its finding.

f. The Lost Property or its price will be delivered to the Owner after payment of the cost of safekeeping and making announcements in respect thereof, and the DP's estimation of this cost will be deemed final.

Honouring Finders
Article (7)

a. A Finder may be honoured by awarding him any of the following:

1. a certificate of appreciation from the DP in recognition of his honesty; or

2. a financial reward amounting to ten percent (10%) of the value of the Lost Property, but not exceeding fifty thousand dirhams (AED 50,000.00). This reward will be deducted from the proceeds of the disposition of the Lost Property regardless of whether its Owner claims it or not.

b. The conditions, rules, and procedures for honouring Finders as stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article, will be prescribed by the relevant resolution issued by the Commander-in-Chief.

Retaining Lost Property
Article (8)

a. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Law, a Finder may claim to retain the Lost Property one (1) year after the date of finding it if the Owner is not identified, in accordance with the relevant rules and guarantees prescribed by the relevant resolution issued by the Commander-in-Chief.

b. A Finder must maintain the Lost Property delivered to him by the DP and return it to its Owner upon request.

Abandoned Property and Items
Article (9)

a. The DP will dispose of the property and items listed below without the need to make announcements on 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 for a period of sixty (60) days, but excluding property and items abandoned at customs checkpoints that are subject to customs procedures under the applicable legislation;

2. property and items which are abandoned by detainees and 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 or in the premises of government and non-government entities, and which remain unclaimed for sixty (60) days after the date of their abandonment;

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 from the date on which their owner is notified of the release or cancellation of seizure;

5. property and items which are abandoned by their owners in respect of whom an administrative deportation decision is issued in accordance with the legislation in force, and which remain unclaimed for sixty (60) days from the date of deportation; and

6. property and items which are not related to a crime and which are abandoned by their owners during DP operations and raids, and which remain unclaimed for sixty (60) days after the date of their abandonment.

b. The DP will issue a report containing the description of the Abandoned Property stated in paragraph (a) of this Article, the entity from which it is received, and any other information the DP deems important to record.

c. The proceeds of sale of Abandoned Property will be paid to the Public Treasury Account of the Government of Dubai.

Cooperation with the DP
Article (10)

All Government Entities and private legal persons must fully cooperate and coordinate with the DP, and provide it with the support required to enable it to perform its functions under this Law, the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and other legislation in force in the Emirate. This includes registering any Lost Property and Abandoned Property that comes into their possession in the electronic system developed by the DP for this purpose, and delivering the same to the DP within the time frames specified under this Law.

Administrative Penalties and Fines
Article (11)

a. The DP must serve a written warning to any Person who violates the provisions of this Law or the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. Such warning must require the violator to redress and remedy that violation within the time frame prescribed by the DP.

b. Without prejudice to any applicable civil or criminal liability, or to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation, any person who violates the provisions of this Law or the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dirhams (AED 500.00) and not more than one hundred thousand dirhams (AED 100,000.00). The Chairman of the Executive Council will issue a resolution determining the acts that constitute violations of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance thereof, including failure to redress and remedy the violation within the time frame prescribed by the DP; and the fine prescribed for each violation.

c. Upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation, the amount of the fine imposed on the violator will be doubled, but must not exceed two hundred thousand dirhams (AED 200,000.00).

Issuing Implementing Resolutions
Article (12)

With the exception of the resolutions which the Chairman of the Executive Council is exclusively authorised to issue under this Law, the Commander-in-Chief will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Law. These resolutions will be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai.

Supersession and Repeals
Article (13)

a. This Law supersedes the above-mentioned Law No. (5) of 2015.

b. Any provision in any other legislation is hereby repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

c. The resolutions and bylaws issued in implementation of the above-mentioned Law No. (5) of 2015 will continue in force, to the extent that they do not contradict this Law, until new superseding resolutions and bylaws are issued.

Publication and Commencement
Article (14)

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 17 November 2025

Corresponding to 26 Jumada al-Ula 1447 A.H.