

Resolution No. (210) of 2025
Approving the
Guidelines on the Rules for Estimating the Fees of Expert Witnesses¹

The Director of the Dubai Courts,

After perusal of:

Law No. (13) of 2020 Regulating Expert Witness Work before Judicial Bodies in the Emirate of Dubai (the "**Law**"), and

The proposal submitted by the Expert Witnesses Affairs Committee formed within the Dubai Courts,

Does hereby issue this Resolution.

Approval of the Guidelines
Article (1)

Pursuant to this Resolution, the Guidelines on the Rules for Estimating the Fees of Expert Witnesses attached herewith, including all standards, rules, and regulations, are approved, and are to be published on the official website of the Dubai Courts.

Application of the Guidelines
Article (2)

Except for the persons and entities exempt from the application of the provisions of the Law, the Guidelines referred to in Article (1) of this Resolution apply to all Judicial Bodies when assessing Expert Witnesses' fees, and to all those who conduct Expert Witness Work before Judicial Bodies.

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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.

Review and Update of the Guidelines

Article (3)

The Expert Witnesses Affairs Committee at the Dubai Courts will periodically review the Guidelines approved pursuant to this Resolution, whether on its own initiative or at the request of the Judicial Bodies specified in the Law; propose appropriate amendments and updates to these Guidelines; and submit them to the Director of the Dubai Courts to issue the relevant directives as he deems appropriate.

Publication and Commencement

Article (4)

This Resolution will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force fifteen (15) days after the date of its publication.

Prof. Saif Ghanem Al Suwaidi
Director of the Dubai Courts

Issued in Dubai on 18 August 2025
Corresponding to 24 Safar 1447 A.H.

Guidelines on the Rules for Estimating the Fees of Expert Witnesses

Introduction:

Expert Witnesses provide technical and specialised support to Judicial Bodies, thereby contributing to enhancing the accuracy of issued judicial decisions and judgments and to the delivery of expeditious justice. Given that the Expert Witness's role, the efforts exerted, and the costs incurred vary depending on the nature of the assignment entrusted to him, these Guidelines set out the general rules for assessing Expert Witnesses' fees in applications and claims, with a view to ensuring the application of fair and transparent standards in determining such fees, while taking into account the specific nature of each assignment, the extent of the efforts expended therein, and other factors and criteria relevant to the assessment of such fees.

Objectives of the Guidelines:

These Guidelines aim to:

1. enhance the governance of the procedures for assessing Expert Witnesses' fees by promoting the principles of integrity, impartiality, and transparency at the various stages of determining and disbursing such fees;
2. provide a clear and unified framework that enables Judicial Bodies to assess Expert Witnesses' fees objectively and fairly, thereby ensuring justice and equality among all Expert Witnesses conducting Expert Witness Work; and
3. ensure balance and flexibility in the process of assessing fees, taking into account the nature of the assignments entrusted to Expert Witnesses, the extent of the technical and specialised efforts exerted, and the actual costs they incur in the proper performance of their work.

Standards for Assessing Expert Witness Fees:

- a. Expert Witnesses' fees will be assessed based on the total value of the claims or applications referred to them, in accordance with Schedules (1) and (2) attached to these Guidelines.
- b. In assessing the Expert Witnesses' fees specified in the two (2) Schedules referred to in paragraph (a) above, the criteria and factors set out in paragraph (b) of Article (22) of the Law must be taken into account:
 1. the classification category of the Expert Witness;
 2. the scope and degree of complexity of the assignment entrusted to the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm;

3. the work conducted by the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm, the time required for its completion, and the stages involved in its execution;
 4. the extent of the Expert Witness's or Expert Witness Firm's commitment to the performance of the assigned duty and addressing all its aspects;
 5. the quality of the Expert Witness Work performed by the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm, and the extent to which the purpose for which the Expert Witness was appointed has been achieved;
 6. the extent of compliance by the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm with the rules governing the practice of Expert Witness Work;
 7. the technical performance assessment rating of the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm in respect of the assigned duty; and
 8. the expenses verified by the Judicial Body to have been incurred by the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm and required for performing the assigned duty, including the cost of arranging a venue for meetings with the parties to the dispute; the cost of travelling to the inspection site; fees paid for obtaining any papers, certificates, maps, or documents; and fees for engaging specialists and technicians to perform tasks falling outside the scope of the Expert Witness's area of expertise.
- c. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) above, the Judicial Body may assess fees that differ from those specified in the two (2) Schedules referred to in that paragraph, whether by way of an increase or a decrease. In doing so, and without prejudice to the standards and factors referred to in paragraph (b) above, the following must be taken into account:
1. the expenses incurred or expected to be incurred by the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm;
 2. the time required to complete the assignment as estimated by the Dubai Courts;
 3. the extent of the need to engage additional expertise or to travel and conduct inspections;
 4. the classification category of the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm, so that higher fees are payable to Expert Witnesses or Expert Witness Firms classified in the higher categories;
 5. the qualifications and experience of the Expert Witness;

6. the extent of the Expert Witness's or Expert Witness Firm's compliance with the rules governing the practice of Expert Witness Work;
7. the technical performance assessment rating of the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm in respect of the assigned duty;
8. the terms of any agreement concluded between the disputing parties for the assessment of the fees and expenses of the Expert Witness Work; and
9. any other criteria or factors that the Judicial Body deems important to take into account.

Increasing the Expertise Fees:

- a. An Expert Witness or an Expert Witness Firm may submit a reasoned request for an increase in the assessed fees within fifteen (15) days from the date of completion of the assignment and the filing of the report, in accordance with the relevant procedures adopted by the Judicial Body.
- b. In determining any increase in the fees for Expert Witness Work, the relevant criteria and factors set out in these Guidelines and in the Law must be taken into account.

Rules for Payment of the Expertise Fees:

- a. The fees of an Expert Witness or an Expert Witness Firm will be paid upon completion of the assignment. The assignment of the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm will not be considered completed unless all elements specified in the decision or interlocutory judgment appointing the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm have been fully performed.
- b. The Judicial Body may, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Expert Witness or the Expert Witness Firm, decide to pay a portion of the fees at any stage of the assignment.
- c. The Judicial Body may, either on its own initiative or at the request of an affected party, make such decision as it deems appropriate on any matter affecting the payment or recovery of the fees, whether in whole or in part.

Schedule (1)
Assessment of Expert Witness Fees (Natural Persons)

Value of the Claims or Applications Referred to an Expert Witness (in dirhams)	Assessed Fees (in dirhams)
Up to AED 200,000	From AED 5,000 up to AED 10,000
From AED 200,001 up to AED 1,000,000	From AED 10,000 up to AED 30,000
From AED 1,000,001 up to AED 5,000,000	From AED 30,000 up to AED 50,000
From AED 5,000,001 up to AED 25,000,000	From AED 50,000 up to AED 100,000
From AED 25,000,001 up to AED 125,000,000	From AED 100,000 up to AED 200,000
From AED 125,000,001 up to AED 625,000,000	From AED 200,000 up to AED 500,000
More than AED 625,000,000	From AED 500,000 up to AED 1,500,000

Schedule (2)
Assessment of Expert Witness Committee and Expert Witness Firm Fees

Value of the Claims or Applications Referred to Expert Witness Committees or Expert Witness Firms (in dirhams)	Assessed Fees (in dirhams)
Up to AED 200,000	From AED 10,000 up to AED 30,000
From AED 200,001 up to AED 1,000,000	From AED 30,000 up to AED 50,000
From AED 1,000,001 up to AED 5,000,000	From AED 50,000 up to AED 80,000
From AED 5,000,001 up to AED 25,000,000	From AED 80,000 up to AED 200,000
From AED 25,000,001 up to AED 125,000,000	From AED 200,000 up to AED 500,000
From AED 125,000,001 up to AED 625,000,000	From AED 500,000 up to AED 1,000,000
More than AED 625,000,000	From AED 1,000,000 up to AED 3,000,000