



دائرة القضاء
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

What is Abu Dhabi Judicial Department?



Strategy

Vision An efficient and independent judicial system based on excellence that provides world class judicial services.

Mission Safeguard the rule of law by ensuring justice, freedom and peace in society.

Summary

The legal structure in the UAE runs in two systems; there is the federal system and there are also a number of local courts. Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (also referred to as ADJD) is the local court within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

ADJD was established under Law No. 23 of 2006 in line with the directives of His Highness, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in his capacity as Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, with a goal to ensure the delivery and administration of justice and equality to all citizens and residents throughout Abu Dhabi.

It is a tri-tiered court system, meaning that it consists of:

1. Courts of First Instance;
2. Courts of Appeal; and
3. Court of Cassation.

According to Article 104 of the Constitution of the UAE, the local judicial bodies in each Emirate shall have jurisdiction in all judicial matters that have not been entrusted to the Federal judiciary by virtue of the Constitution.

Consequently, the main types of cases heard by ADJD relate to commercial, employment, family, civil and criminal disputes.



Specialist Courts and Divisions

To ensure that it is providing world class judicial services and in the interests of justice, a number of specialised courts have been established since the creation of ADJD. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Abu Dhabi Commercial Court-** This court was established in 2008 in response to the rapid growth of Abu Dhabi's business sector. The court itself also has a variety of specialist chambers such as a bankruptcy chamber.
- **Abu Dhabi Labour Court-** This employment court was established in accordance with Decision No. 22 of 2018 to cater for the needs of employers and employees based in Abu Dhabi. The court is strategically placed in Musaffah where the majority of labourers are based and alike the Commercial Court, also has a number of specialised chambers such as the 'One Day Court'.
- **Abu Dhabi Civil Family Court-** This new court was created in 2021 following the issuance of Abu Dhabi Law No. 14 of 2021. It has jurisdiction to deal with family disputes for expatriates and also offers a civil marriage and will registration service. It is the first of its kind in the region and has gained significant popularity since its establishment.
- **Abu Dhabi Criminal Court-** This court was established in 2018 and has the power to hear criminal cases.

ADJD is also made up of a number of specialist divisions which offer services to the public, for example:

- Notary Public Department
- Legal Aid Office
- Lawyers and Experts Division
- Abu Dhabi Judicial Academy
- Family Guidance Centre
- Conciliation and Reconciliation Division (Civil and Commercial Disputes)





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For further information, you can contact ADJD directly through the following channels:

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