

# Dashcam recordings can be used as proof during road accidents



**LEGAL VIEW**  
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**Q:** I work and live in Dubai. I would like to know whether dashcams are legal in the UAE? If some vehicle hits mine, can the footage from my dashcam be used as evidence to claim insurance? Also, I have seen some illegal activities going on in my area. Can I secretly film them and share them with the authorities? What should I do?

regarding the illegal activities and inform them the location, so they will visit the site where these are being carried out based on your first-hand information. However, you should not record without the approval of public prosecution as you may yourself face criminal charges for recording video secretly in public places.

This is in accordance with Article 21 of the Federal Decree Law No. 5 of 2012 on combating cybercrimes, which states: "One shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of at least six months and a fine not less than Dh150,000 and not in excess of Dh500,000 or either of these two penalties if he/she uses a computer network or/and electronic information system or any information technology means for the invasion of privacy of another person in other than the cases allowed by the law and by any of the following ways:

1. Eavesdropping, interception, recording, transferring, transmitting or disclosure of conversations or communications, or audio or visual materials.
2. Photographing others or creating, transferring, disclosing, copying or saving electronic photos.
3. Publishing news, electronic photos or photographs, scenes, comments statements or information even if true and correct.

One shall also be punished by imprisonment for a period of at least one year and a fine of not less than Dh250,000 and not in excess of Dh500,000 or either of these two penalties if one uses an electronic information system or any information technology means for amending or processing a record, photo or scene for the purpose of defamation of or offending another person or for attacking or invading his privacy."

Further, Article 378 of the Federal Law No. 3 of 1987 on issuance of Penal Code of UAE, states: "Whoever publishes news, pictures or comments related to the secrets of private or family life of persons even if they are true, shall be punished by detention for a period not exceeding one year and by a fine not exceeding Dh10,000, or by one of these two penalties."

## Know the law



If an employee has completed more than three months after the probation period in the continuous service of the employer and falls ill, he shall be entitled to sick leave not exceeding 90 days whether continuous or otherwise

## You are entitled to full salary for first 15 days of sick leave

**Q:** I had availed a three-week sick leave shortly after resuming work upon completion of my maternity leave. I had even provided my company with sick leave certificate for each of these weeks. Now my employer says they would deduct the salary for the approved sick leave despite providing them the medical certificate in support of it. Is this illegal under labour law?

**A:** Pursuant to your queries, you are entitled for salary as mentioned in Article 83 (2) of the Federal Law No. 8 of 1980 regulating employment relations in the UAE (the 'Employment Law'), which states: "If the employee has completed more than three months after the probation period in the continuous service of the employer and falls ill, he shall be entitled to sick leave not exceeding 90 days whether continuous or otherwise, in respect of every year of service. Such leave shall be calculated as follows:

- a. The first 15 days with full pay.
- b. The next 30 days, with half pay.
- c. Any subsequent period, without pay."

Based on the aforementioned provision of law, you are entitled to full salary for the first 15 days and for the remaining period of sick leave for half salary.

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**A:** Pursuant to your queries, it is not illegal in the UAE to use dashcams on your vehicles as it will help you or the police and authorities in case of road accidents to figure out who is at fault. The dashcams should be purchased only from authorised sellers based in the UAE and installed and operated as per the regulations prevailing in the UAE. Dashcam recording in the vehicle should not be misused and circulated in public or to defame the owners of the cars. It should only be used as evidence during accidents and any criminal offence, which occurs within or around the vehicle.

It should be noted that one cannot secretly video record or photograph in public unless authorised by the local authorities. You should seek an approval from the public prosecution to be a whistleblower, and that you intend to assist the local authorities in reporting them the illegal activities. The discretion rests with the public prosecution to approve your request and authorise you to record video or photograph secretly about illegal activities.

Meanwhile, you can report to the police

## Know the law



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