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01 Electronic Litigation: Economic Court Law no. 146 of 2019

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disrupted the proceedings
of the judicial sector**

The path to justice must always be paved; therefore, constitutions provide that states shall always guarantee access to justice for its citizens. However, emergencies may make this goal, if not reachable, burdensome for litigants amid crises. Believing in the well-known saying "Justice delayed is justice denied", countries must be keen to provide access to justice in crises, especially global pandemics such as COVID-19. Consider the example of Egypt: although access to justice is duly guaranteed by the Egyptian Constitution, the Egyptian justice system shut many courthouses amid the outbreak of coronavirus.

Although the impact of the COVID-19 severely disrupted the proceedings of the judicial sector, the crisis has proved that a digital method organizing judicial procedures is needed to continue the work for the judges and lawyers smoothly without interruptions. Six months before the coronavirus outbreak, Egypt adopted an amendment to its economic court law, which allows for some judicial procedures to be taken electronically. Such an amendment, albeit on a small scale, unveils the Egyptian state's approach to digitize its judicial services, because it has become an urgent need to expand amending various laws to ensure that its citizens access justice.

On August 7, 2019, Egypt promulgated the law No. 146 of 2019, amending Law No. 120 of 2008 of the Economic Court.

The amended provision allows litigants to undertake digital actions such as filing lawsuits and submitting memorandums and case documents through the economic court website; notifying parties to disputes by email, telephone and other technological means; enabling registration, appealing judgments and submitting requests through certain dedicated websites; allowing the appeal of a judgement of first instance before the economic court by submitting an electronic petition fixed with a certified e-signature; notifying parties with petitions, interlocutory requests and intervention on their chosen electronic domiciles.

The said amendment allows litigants to upload documents electronically with the ability to save and retrieve them. They also are allowed to make payment of all fees electronically, including court fees and stamps and to extract copies of electronic documents. But most significantly, it imposes strict procedures to protect case documents from being electronically amended, substituted, or damaged.

The persons addressed by provisions of the said amendment are obligated to specify a chosen electronic address where all notices shall be served. The economic court, in return, shall have a Specific Electronic Register ("SER") to record the chosen electronic addresses, including e-mails of the State or public juridical persons,

domestic and foreign companies or private juridical persons, law firms, and natural persons.

Litigation procedures begin electronically when persons registered in the SER deposit an electronic and signed statement of claim at the site designated for the clerk's office. **The fee for this service shall be an amount not less than one hundred Egyptian pounds and not more than one thousand Egyptian pounds.** The parties to a lawsuit filed electronically shall notify the opponents with the statement of claim to the chosen electronic address. If it is not possible, they will follow the usual way of notification according to the civil and commercial procedures.

Electronic litigation is currently only available to economic courts. The Egyptian administration's desire to digitize all services available to the public needs further expansion to include other non-economic courts. Electronic appealing of the rulings of economic courts before the Court of Cassation is a good first step, but it is one of a thousand steps that Egypt must take towards digitizing its judicial services.



02 Are Expats Entitled to Stimulus Checks?

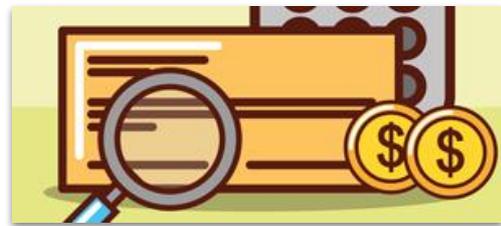
Don't worry if you're an expat who missed out on the last round of stimulus checks. Congressional Democrats and Republicans could authorize another set of \$1,200 checks as early as September. Many expats are eligible to receive stimulus checks and could have the money in their checking accounts before October. Read the answers to the most important stimulus check questions for expats below to find out how much money you're entitled to receive when the President signs the next Congressional stimulus package.

General eligibility requirements

Moving abroad doesn't disqualify you from receiving a stimulus check, whether you pay taxes or not. US citizens living in foreign countries can get an [Economic Impact Payment](#) from the IRS.

If you're not eligible for a stimulus payment, it's for one of these reasons:

1. You're registered as another tax filer's dependent.
2. You have an adjusted gross income of more than \$99,000 or you and your spouse have a combined income of more than \$198,000.
3. You're incarcerated abroad.
4. You don't have a work-eligible Social Security number.



Was your income too low to file tax returns in 2018 or 2019? October 15th is the IRS deadline to update the IRS with your information using the [Non-Filers tool](#). This tool is for low-income individuals; if your income qualified you file a tax return, you won't get your stimulus check until you do.

Will you still receive a check if you have a foreign spouse?

File your tax returns separately from your foreign spouse to ensure receipt of your stimulus check. The IRS is [withholding stimulus checks](#) from joint filers and their dependents when one of the spouses does not have an SSN. Recent Congressional proposals, such as the Democrat-sponsored HEROES Act and Marco Rubio's American Citizen Coronavirus Relief Act, aim to extend stimulus check eligibility to American spouses of foreign citizens and their children.

Which dependents are entitled to the extra \$500 check?

Adults receive stimulus checks of \$1200 each, which may be adjusted for single incomes in excess of \$75,000 and joint incomes of more than \$150,000. Filers then receive \$500 for each dependent. Many expats have legally complicated family situations involving dual citizen or foreign dependents. Dual citizens are eligible for the dependent check, yet the IRS only allows filers to claim a foreigner as a dependent when the foreigner has an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). You will not receive money for dependents born or adopted into your family after your 2019 tax returns.

Choosing the best way to receive your stimulus check

The IRS automatically sent stimulus checks to eligible US citizens, including expats. There are currently three stimulus check options: direct deposit, paper check, and prepaid debit card. Unfortunately, some expats have not yet received their checks. The IRS sent checks or debit cards in cases where the recipient's bank account information was outdated or unavailable. Expats using a stateside mailing address associated with a US bank account may find the check waiting for them upon their return. For a more precise estimate of when your stimulus check was sent and to obtain information about future payments, consult the [Get My Payment](#) portal. Direct deposit remains the most secure way to receive your Economic Impact Payment.



03 Regulation of Street Parking in Egypt

The recently introduced Street Parking Law No. 150/2020 is an interesting step forward that the government aims to regulate street parking regardless of the problems it may cause, some of which may even be constitutional.

The law aims to regulate the street parking issues that are being faced on a daily basis from the individuals claiming the right of ownership of street parking spaces when citizens try to park their car. The matter initially started off as the payment of a small favor or a tip to those tendering it the parking services, finally, a new regulations aim to privatize this odd behavior that was never approved of initially.

While the “sayes” system itself is already controversial enough; it is seen by many as a form of royalty or even bullying to pay; therefore, the Egyptian Government has decided to provide a permanent solution.

The law offers fixed costs for those who wish to park their cars on the streets, by allowing companies or private entities, as well as individuals to request the issuance of a license that would allow them to pursue this job legitimately.

While some of the terms and conditions do indeed deserve all praise, other articles of the law may be open to criticism

While some of the terms and conditions do indeed deserve all praise, other articles of the law may be open to criticism, such as treating both companies (juristic persons or entities) and individuals equally, disregarding the competition laws and regulations, perhaps even opposing the constitutional rights granted to individuals.

Although it has not yet been implemented, the law does promise a prosperous and safe transition to those parking their cars on the street; promising the consumer the highest benefit.

It is an intelligent move by the Egyptian government to exploit this untouched, virgin market and allowing companies to enter this market and make a direct revenue through the fixed prices that are to be decided by the competent Committee. Prices may vary from one area to another. It is note-worthy to highlight that the aforementioned license is valid for 3 years and subject to renewal.

To best describe this law, it is an attempt that might fail miserably if not properly coordinated with the complementary laws, such as the competition law and the Egyptian Constitution. It is an interesting, bold initiative exploring a brand-new business market that may prosper strongly.



04 The Prisoner's Dilemma in Law and Economics

The prisoner's dilemma is a paradox in decision analysis explaining the decisions made by two individuals motivated by their own self-interest whose outcome depends crucially on the ever-changing choice made by the other; in this situation, each party is unaware of the outcome and therefore does not know the positive effect of cooperating.

The idea was originally framed by Merrill Flood and Melvin Dresher while working at 'RAND' in 1950. Albert W. Tucker formalized the game using prison sentence rewards and named it 'the prisoner's dilemma'.

For instance, two prisoners; A and B, both have committed a crime. A confession is needed to incriminate them and therefore they are placed in an isolated interrogation room and gives them 3 choices:

- A. If both remain silent, then each gets a one-year sentence.**
- B. If one of them confesses and the other does not, then the confessor is granted freedom and the other gets three years**
- C. If both confess, then each of them will be sentenced for two years.**

The lack of knowledge of the other party's actions therefore creates a dilemma; even though the most advantageous strategy for both prisoners would be to confess, the doubt that the other might not, might provide a negative effect on their decisions.

The paradox can be observed in different fields, and even though it was applied in the economics and law field separately; a relation between all three concepts were made in relating the prisoner's dilemma to the economic analysis of law.

Applying this to the concept of strategic behavior and law, each party is faced with the dilemma to act. Assuming said parties are both rational individuals; the action of each of them influences the other directly or indirectly. This leads us to the strategic behavior by parties in deciding conveniently after an evaluation of the effects of said decision. The main objective of law should therefore be the existence of situations where both parties act in a cooperative manner. The theory can be a method for effective laws and the solving of legal disputes. If the parties choose the cooperation path, then a more advantageous decision could be made for both sides.

The theory provided impressive and effective solutions to dilemmas in different domains of law including the economic analysis of negligence laws, mutual warfare and contract laws. The possible solution to 'the prisoner's dilemma' has therefore been to either allow communication or reduce barriers to communication and negotiation. Other legal solutions come in the form of finding a compromise like contract law for private individuals or international treaties for states.

The application of contract law to the prisoner's dilemma is introduced when parties use legally binding contracts. The contract is represented as a solution to the lack of trust facing the two prisoners and is therefore a guarantee for neither of them to betray the other. And in case said betrayal does happen, then the contract also provides the right to sue and reclaim what was lost.

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