



社會福利署

Social Welfare Department

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Licensing Office of Drug Dependents
Treatment Centres
24/F, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

8 January 2020

To: All Specified Operators / Supervisors of
Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

**A One-off Extra Allowance for
Social Security Recipients Living in
Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres**

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding allocation on 6 December 2019 for implementing a series of supportive measures as announced by the Financial Secretary on 15 August 2019. Eligible recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) will receive one additional month of standard rate, and recipients of the Old Age Allowance (including those payable under the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA; including the Normal OALA and Higher OALA) and Disability Allowance (DA; including Normal DA and Higher DA) under the Social Security Allowance Scheme will also receive one additional month of allowance. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) announced that the above eligible social security recipients will receive the one-off extra allowance starting from 7 January 2020. Social security recipients living in Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (treatment centres) will also be benefited from the arrangement.

According to our existing arrangement, the payment will be deposited directly into the recipients' bank accounts. If a CSSA applicant aged 18 or above has been medically certified to be physically or mentally unfit to make an application on his/her own, he/she may make an application through an appointee appointed by the Director of Social Welfare. A recipient who is unable to withdraw CSSA payments on his/her own due to other special reasons may also authorize a family member/relative/friend trusted by him/her to act as an agent to collect CSSA payments for him/her. The appointee or agent is required to maintain a separate bank account and ensure that the account is used solely for receiving and administering CSSA payments for the recipient. The appointee or agent is also required to keep an accurate statement of receipts and expenditures and other records of administering relevant payments for the applicant. SWD will carry out random checks on these cases to ensure that CSSA payments are properly used without any misappropriation by the appointee or agent.



We are writing to remind all specified operators of treatment centres that the extra allowance is not intended for subsidising centre fees. Therefore, treatment centres must not collect the allowance to cover centre fees or other service charges. In particular, the staff of treatment centres must not withdraw or use residents' bank deposits without the consent of the residents or their appointees/agents. Treatment centres should strictly observe the requirements as stipulated in paragraphs 4.1.1, 4.7.2(a)(vii) and 4.7.2(c) of the Code of Practice for Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres in handling residents' possessions and the charging of fees. On the other hand, specified operator of subvented treatment centres should also observe the requirements under subvention allocations in relation to charging of fees.

The Licensing Office of Drug Dependents Treatment Centres (LODTC) of the SWD will conduct surprise random checks. If irregularities are found, it will give advice, warning or give directions by notice in writing to the treatment centre under Section 16(1) of the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance (the Ordinance). If the treatment centre fails to comply, prosecution may be considered by SWD according to Section 16(3) of the Ordinance. If convicted, it is liable to a fine at level 6 and to imprisonment for 6 months. The SWD may also order cessation of use of the premises as a treatment centre under Section 17(1)(b) of the Ordinance; or vary the conditions of the licence or certificate of exemption, refuse to grant the renewal, or cancel the licence or certificate of exemption under Sections 9(3)(a), 9(3)(b) or 14. In addition, if the specified operator/staff is suspected of financially abusing residents' property or committing other criminal offences, the case will certainly be referred to the Police for follow-up.

Should you have any enquiry, please contact the concerned social worker of LODTC.

Yours sincerely,

Signed
(Ms Yuen Mo-kuen, Monita)
for Director of Social Welfare

cc:

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