



Our Ref. : SWD 1/100/01 Pt.7
Tel No. : 2961 7541
Fax No. : 2119 9057

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

3 September 2019

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

**A One-off Grant to
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Students Living in
Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres**

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has made a one-off grant to students who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) starting from 23 August 2019. Such an arrangement is one of a series of relief measures announced by the Financial Secretary in the 2019-20 Budget on 27 February this year. Students from child care centres, kindergartens, and primary and secondary schools who are eligible for a flat-rate grant for selected items of school-related expenses under the CSSA Scheme in the 2019/20 school year will each be provided a one-off grant of \$2,500. CSSA students living in Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (treatment centres) are also benefited from the arrangement.

The one-off grant will be paid through the existing CSSA payment method, i.e. through autopay to the designated bank accounts. If a CSSA applicant aged below 18 or 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 authorise 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. The 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 one-off grant is not intended for subsidising centre fees. Therefore, treatment centres



must not collect the grant 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 the SWD according to Section 16(3) of the Ordinance. The specified operator of the treatment centre, if convicted, 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 cancel, refuse to grant the renewal, or vary the conditions of the licence or certificate of exemption under Sections 14, 9(3)(b) or 9(3)(a). 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,

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

cc:

Senior Executive Officer (Narcotics) 2, Narcotics Division
Assistant Director (Youth and Corrections), SWD
Assistant Director (Social Security), SWD
Assistant Director (Licensing and Regulation), SWD
District Social Welfare Officers, SWD
Chief Social Work Officer (Youth), SWD
Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 4, SWD
Chief Social Work Officer (Subventions), SWD