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

15 June 2018

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 Social Welfare Department (SWD) will make two additional months of standard rate for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and two additional months of allowance for 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) recipients under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme on 15 June 2018. Such an arrangement is one of the measures announced by the Financial Secretary in his 2018-19 Budget to share the fruits of economic success with the community. The Legislative Council approved the funding allocation on 10 May 2018 for implementing the measures. Social security recipients living in Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (treatment centres) may also benefit 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 one of the Government measures to share the fruits of economic



success with the community and is not intended for subsidizing 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 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. The specified operator of the treatment centre, if convicted, is liable to a fine at level 6 and to imprisonment for 6 months. SWD may also order cessation of use of the premises as a treatment centre under Section 17(1)(b) of the Ordinance; cancel, refuse to grant the renewal or vary the conditions of the licence or certificate of exemption under Section 14, 9(3)(b) and (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 our social workers of LODTC.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

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

cc:

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