

Press release from the Administrative Enforcement Agency (AEA), Ministry of Justice



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Balancing Justice and Compassion: The Administrative Enforcement Agency Demonstrates Humane Enforcement

Upholding the principle of “justice and compassion,” the Administrative Enforcement Agency (AEA), Ministry of Justice, adopts flexible and lenient enforcement measures for obligors who are disadvantaged, from low-income households, unemployed, or severely affected by major natural disasters. Through referral and notification mechanisms, the AEA integrates resources from both the public and private sectors to provide appropriate care and assistance based on the needs of obligors. In addition, to implement the policies of “zero tolerance for drunk driving” and “alcohol addiction treatment,” the AEA has established a referral platform for alcohol addiction treatment for obligors involved in drunk driving cases, aiming to reduce repeat offenses and safeguard public health and safety.

During the enforcement process, if it is found that an obligor is unable to pay due to unemployment, financial hardship, or unforeseen circumstances, the branches will extend the number of installment payments to assist obligors in fulfilling their statutory obligations. Furthermore, in cases involving vulnerable obligors, enforcement

personnel proactively provide care. Furthermore, in cases involving vulnerable obligors, proactive care is provided. In addition to donations or supplies offered through branch-established charitable groups, referrals to social welfare institutions are arranged to assist vulnerable obligors in gaining access to support resources. From April 2012 to December 2025, the branches of the AEA have handled a total of 10,855 cases, including 2,003 cases involving referrals to employment service centers for job placement assistance, 4,455 cases involving notifications to relevant city or county government authorities to provide necessary assistance, 1,774 cases involving referrals to social welfare institutions for consultation, and 2,623 cases involving charitable donations and care visits. Through flexible enforcement and referral-based care measures, obligors are assisted in overcoming their difficulties, demonstrating the compassionate side of enforcement authorities.

To implement the policy of “zero tolerance for drunk driving” and reduce the rate of repeat drunk driving offenses, on October 31, 2025, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the AEA, and the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center (Taiwan AAAPC) jointly signed a “Letter of Intent on Cooperation for Referral of Drunk Driving Obligor to Alcohol Addiction Treatment.” Through collaboration between the AEA and the Taiwan AAAPC—established by MacKay Memorial Hospital under commission from the Ministry of Health and Welfare—an “Alcohol Addiction Treatment Referral Platform” was created. When carrying out enforcement duties, if executors come into contact with obligors involved in drunk driving cases, they may provide information on alcohol addiction prevention and treatment. Subject to the obligor’s consent, the case may be referred to the Taiwan AAAPC with medical expertise for further assessment and determination of appropriate follow-up treatment measures. Through this referral mechanism, appropriate medical assistance is provided to obligors involved in drunk driving cases, with the aim of preventing

drunk driving incidents and reducing repeat offenses.

Looking ahead, the AEA will continue to uphold the principles of justice and compassion, as well as continuity and innovation. In addition to making full use of enforcement measures authorized by law and further enhancing enforcement effectiveness, the Agency will continue to extend appropriate care and assistance to vulnerable obligors through flexible and considerate enforcement. It will also maintain the referral mechanism to addiction treatment institutions for drunk driving obligors, thereby giving full play to the humane and restorative function of administrative enforcement.

[Case Study: Care for the Vulnerable and Alcohol Addiction Referral]

Case 1: Taoyuan Branch Charity Association Assists a Minor Student Burdened with Debt

A 17-year-old female student accumulated arrears exceeding NT\$4.68 million in income tax on house and land transactions. She currently resides in a dormitory in Taipei and relies entirely on part-time work to cover her tuition and living expenses. The case arose after the student's mother transferred ownership of a property to her in 2020 and subsequently established a trust in the property under the capacity of legal representative. The property was sold in January 2024, and the sale proceeds were entirely withdrawn by the mother, leaving behind a substantial tax liability. In February 2024, the student's stepfather called to inform her that her mother had sold the property. The mother then terminated the student's bank card and mobile phone services. The student has since been unable to contact her mother, who has also ceased providing financial support for tuition and living expenses. She now depends solely on her own earnings from part-time employment. When

the student, accompanied by a social worker, appeared at the branch to explain her situation, she appeared composed and resilient; however, when speaking of her mother, she could not conceal her sense of disappointment. Recognizing her perseverance in continuing her studies despite her difficult circumstances, the executor took her situation into consideration. The branch's Charity Association provided a condolence allowance in the hope of offering partial financial assistance and heartfelt support.

Case 2: Chiayi Branch Assists Disabled Foreign National in Overcoming Hardship

An American national surnamed Long, who has resided in Taiwan for more than 20 years, was referred to the Chiayi Branch for enforcement due to unpaid vehicle license tax exceeding NT\$60,000. After the executor seized NT\$15,000 from Mr. Long's bank deposit, Mr. Long submitted a petition through bank staff, stating that he has limited mobility in both legs due to a car accident and is currently unemployed. Following the seizure of his deposit, his livelihood has fallen into hardship. Upon learning of the situation, the responsible clerk not only explained the relevant tax regulations and enforcement procedures, but also proactively notified the Social Affairs Bureau of the Tainan City Government to activate the social assistance mechanism. The Chiayi Branch's Charity Association raised donations from its colleagues. Led by the Branch Director, staff members conducted a care visit and presented a consolation payment of NT\$8,000 together with daily necessities. Social workers from the Social Affairs Bureau also accompanied the visit to provide food assistance and informed Mr. Long of the procedures for applying for a disability assessment. Mr. Long was deeply moved by the timely care and became emotional on the spot, expressing that although he is in a foreign land, he can still feel the warmth of Taiwan's public sector.

Case 3: Pingtung Branch Assists Drunk-Driving Offender in Beginning the Path to Sobriety

In July 2018, a man rode a motorcycle under the influence of alcohol and ran a red light, for which he was sentenced by the court to three months of imprisonment. In September 2020, he was fined NT\$180,000 for refusing a breathalyzer test. In November 2023, he again drove under the influence of alcohol and was fined NT\$90,000, and his driver's license was revoked. As he failed to pay the fines, the case was referred to the Pingtung Branch for enforcement. The responsible clerk visited the obligor's residence for investigation. The obligor stated that he makes a living through farming, is willing to repay the outstanding fines, and hopes to apply for installment payments. Relatives and friends have advised him to drink less, and for the sake of his family he also expressed his wish to quit drinking and is willing to undergo alcohol addiction treatment. The clerk immediately assisted in referring him to the Taiwan AAAPC for consultation or medical services related to alcohol-related issues. The Pingtung Branch calls upon members of the public that if they discover that they or their family members experience maladjustment in daily life due to repeated alcohol consumption, they may call the alcohol cessation hotline or request assistance from the Branch for referral.

Case 4: Hualien Branch Assists Married Couple in Overcoming Alcohol Addiction and Rebuilding Their Lives

An obligor surnamed Wu was fined NT\$36,000 for driving without a license. On December 11, 2025, he came to the Hualien Branch with his wife, stating that due to financial difficulties he hoped to apply for installment payments. Mr. Wu admitted that he has long had a drinking habit and often could not control excessive alcohol consumption. The fine in question arose from driving under the influence of alcohol and continuing to drive after his driver's license had been revoked. With patient guidance from the clerk, the obligor expressed willingness to

actively address his outstanding fines through installment payments and, together with his wife, to undergo alcohol addiction treatment, hoping to break free from the vicious cycle at an early date. The Hualien Branch has established a cooperative partnership with the “Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction” under the Hualien County Health Bureau. It provided the obligor with leaflets on alcohol addiction treatment and assisted the obligor in applying for the “Ministry of Health and Welfare Subsidy for Alcohol Addiction Treatment Expenses,” thereby alleviating the obligor’s financial burden and demonstrating the compassionate aspect of law enforcement.