

Caritas Wong Yiu Nam Centre

Our views on the topic are as follows:

1. We support setting regulations to protect the rights of the persons seeking and undergoing drug treatment. During the process, we have always expressed that we would like to join doing the work. However, the government departments chose to handle the tasks on their own, which gave rise to communication problems and the inability to recognise the operational problems of service providers. We do hope that the government can accept our joining hands to complete the tasks.
2. One of the essential tasks of a drug treatment service provider is to keep the treatment centre free of illicit drugs. Otherwise, no meaningful work can be accomplished. We have to set strict security measures such as body and belongings searching. These measures are to help service users instead of breaching their rights.
3. During the detoxification and rehabilitation phases, drug dependents do not have proper self control. Their motivation is unsteady and they often think of giving up. If we let them do according to their own will, most of them cannot complete the treatment programme. The original Chapter 326 provided treatment agencies to detain the persons under treatment and thus helped the persons. With the deletion of such power, drug treatment work becomes more difficult.
4. We have to balance the pros and cons between 'The right/freedom of the persons under treatment' and 'to keep a treatment centre illicit drug free and in smooth operation'.
5. We are proud of having mutli-modality treatments in Hong Kong. We hope that setting regulations will not lead to some treatment centres terminating their service because of problems like lacking resources.