

LegCo Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee to study issues relating to social welfare benefits
(Supplementary Information)**

**Examples of cases where discretion was not exercised to waive
The one-year residence rule under the CSSA Scheme**

Case example 1

A 16-year-old young man came to Hong Kong to join his father. Soon after his arrival, he got a job in a restaurant and moved away from his father. A few months later, he lost his job and applied for CSSA.

Investigation by the social security field unit (SSFU) revealed that the young man could move to live with his father, who was willing to support him. As he was an employable able-bodied adult and could turn to his father for assistance, no discretion was exercised to grant CSSA to him.

Case example 2

A pregnant woman came to Hong Kong to join her sick husband, who died shortly after her arrival. She gave birth to a son in Hong Kong two months later. While in hospital, she and her baby were referred by a medical social worker to the SSFU for CSSA.

Investigation by the SSFU revealed that the woman and her baby had moved to live with her brother-in-law after their discharge from hospital. As they were being provided free board and lodging by her brother-in-law, a businessman, who could support their living, no CSSA was granted to them.

Case example 3

A 55-year-old Hong Kong taxi driver married a 30-year-old woman in Shenzhen. The woman lived with her mother in an owner-occupied flat

bought by her late father. A few years later, the taxi driver ceased work after a traffic accident. Having used up his savings, he started to rely on CSSA. Some time later, his wife came to Hong Kong to join him and he asked to include her as an eligible member for CSSA on grounds of taking care of him.

Investigation by the SSFU revealed that the man's wife could consider seeking employment as her husband, though aged over 60, did not suffer from any specific illness. Therefore, no discretion was exercised to waive the one-year residence rule for her and her application for CSSA was rejected.

Social Welfare Department

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