

For Information
10 January 2012

Legislative Council
Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families

**Implementation of Application for One-Way Permit
for “Overage Children” of Hong Kong Residents**

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Basic Law, for entry into the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), people from other parts of China must apply for approval. Mainland residents who wish to settle in Hong Kong must apply for One-Way Permit (OWP) from the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the Public Security Bureau (PSB) of the Mainland at the places of their household registration. The application, approval and issue of OWP fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities.

2. In response to the request of Hong Kong residents and their Mainland “overage children” for reunion in Hong Kong, the Central Government decided that, starting from 1 April 2011, Mainland “overage children” of Hong Kong residents may apply for OWP orderly for reunion with their natural parents in Hong Kong. On 15 March 2011, the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB of the Mainland released application details, including the application procedures and required documents. The application, approval and issue of permits to “overage children” largely follow the existing procedures for general OWP applications.

3. According to the relevant application details, starting from 1 April 2011, individuals may apply for OWP to come to Hong Kong if they were below the age of 14 when their natural fathers or mothers, on or before 1 November 2001, obtained their Hong Kong identity card, as long as their natural fathers or mothers still reside in Hong Kong on 1 April 2011. The phased submission of applications by “overage children” to the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB will be scheduled chronologically according to the order in which their natural fathers or mothers obtained their Hong Kong identity cards. The Mainland authorities are accepting applications from Mainland residents whose natural fathers or mothers obtained their first Hong Kong identity cards before 1980.

4. The arrangement for applications of “overage children” to reside in Hong Kong has been implemented in a smooth and orderly manner since 1 April 2011. The Immigration Department has established communication mechanism with

the Mainland authorities to exchange views on application progress from time to time. The relevant statistics from the Mainland authorities as at 31 December 2011 are as follows –

Applications received	28 286
Cases after initial assessment	14 146
OWP approved	5 335

5. According to the Mainland authorities, the priority now is to process the applications received in the first phase, such that the “overage children” applicants can join their natural parents in Hong Kong as soon as possible. Depending on the progress, the Mainland authorities aim to accept second phase applications in the first half of this year. The Mainland authorities will announce the details later.

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