

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Mainland-HKSAR Families**

**Arrangement for Application for One Way Permit for  
“Overage Children” and  
Corresponding Support Measures upon Their Arrival in Hong Kong**

**ARRANGEMENT FOR APPLICATION FOR ONE WAY PERMIT BY  
“OVERAGE CHILDREN”**

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 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. On 15 March 2011, the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB released application details, including the application procedures and required documents. The application, approval and issue of permits to “overage children” largely follow that of OWP applications.

3. According to the relevant application details, starting from 1 April 2011, individuals may apply for an 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 cards, 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. There

is no deadline for the submission of applications.

4. According to the announcement made by the Mainland authorities, starting from 1 April 2011, applicants whose parents obtained their first Hong Kong identity cards on or before 31 December 1979, may submit applications for OWPs at the Exit and Entry Administration Offices of the PSB, at the county (or above) level of their household registration. The Mainland authorities will promulgate separately the timetable for phased submission of applications from other eligible Mainland “overage children”.

5. According to the Mainland authorities, the arrangement for “overage children” has been implemented in a smooth and orderly manner since 1 April 2011. As at end of May, about 170 “overage children” were issued with OWPs to enter Hong Kong. The Immigration Department has established communication mechanism with the Mainland authorities to exchange views on application and related matters from time to time.

## **CORRESPONDING ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE “OVERAGE CHILDREN”**

6. As in the case of other entrants from the Mainland on OWP, the HKSAR Government will provide corresponding support services (e.g. retraining, employment services etc.) for the “overage children” to facilitate their early integration into the community.

7. At present, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) publishes the “Service Handbook for New Arrivals” and provides adaptation courses for new arrivals from the Mainland (NAs) to facilitate their understanding of Hong Kong and early integration into local life. The HAD will ensure that the above services will suit the needs of the new arrivals including “overage children”.

8. Furthermore, the HKSAR Government has, over the years, been allocating resources to provide free and comprehensive employment services for job-seekers, including NAs. The HKSAR Government is fully committed to assisting “overage children” in employment. Dedicated counters are set up in the Labour Department’s Job Centres throughout the territory to provide job referral services to NAs. Employment briefings are organised to help them better understand the local labour market situation and improve job search skills.

New arrival job seekers may also participate in the various specialised employment programmes to enhance employability. The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) also provides sufficient training opportunities. In 2011-12, the ERB plans to offer 130 000 training places and has earmarked resources for 30 000 places in reserve. It is estimated that the ERB training places should be adequate for meeting the training needs of the public, including NAs.

9. Newly arrived “overage children” with the housing needs may apply for public housing through existing channels. For instance, those who are adults, together with their family members, may apply for inclusion into the public housing tenancy of their elderly parents subject to fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the concerned addition policy. NAs with housing needs and satisfying the eligibility criteria may apply for public housing notwithstanding that they have been residing in Hong Kong for less than seven years. Irrespective of whether the applicant himself meets the residence requirement, when the application is due for allocation of public rental housing, he and his family on the waiting list may be allocated a public housing flat on the condition that at least half of the family members have resided in Hong Kong for seven years at the time of allocation.

10. Hong Kong residents are eligible to access the public healthcare services delivered by the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health at highly subsidised rates as “Eligible Persons”. “Overage children” when settled in Hong Kong become Eligible Persons may equally make access to public healthcare services too. We will monitor the service demand of these “overage children” for public healthcare services.

11. Separately, to be eligible for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), an applicant aged 18 or above must have been a Hong Kong resident for at least seven years and pass a means test. In exceptional circumstances, however, the Director of Social Welfare can exercise discretion to grant CSSA to a person who does not meet the residence requirement. Apart from CSSA, as in the case of other NAs, where there are proven needs and the relevant eligibility criteria are satisfied, other forms of assistance and support are available to “overage children” from the Social Welfare Department irrespective of their years of residence in Hong Kong. These include employment support services, emergency relief, temporary grants from charitable trust funds to tide over special and emergency situations, medical waiver, child care services,

assistance in kind, counselling services and placements at singleton hostels.

Food and Health Bureau  
Labour and Welfare Bureau  
Security Bureau  
Hospital Authority  
Home Affairs Department  
Housing Department  
Immigration Department  
Labour Department  
Social Welfare Department  
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