



Press Release of Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice

Date of Release: January 22, 2024

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Source: Secretary's Office

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The Cost of a Kilometer: A Sobering Lesson on Drunk

Driving

Nantou County-a citizen surnamed Wu learned a harsh lesson after deciding to ride home just one kilometer from a social gathering where he had been drinking. Believing he was in good enough condition to ride despite the short distance, Wu was caught with a blood alcohol content exceeding the legal limit. He was subsequently fined by the Puli Motor Vehicles Station of Nantou Motor Vehicles Office under Taichung Motor Vehicles Office, Highway Bureau, MOTC under the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act and the case was transferred to the Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency for enforcement. Upon receiving the case, the Changhua Branch promptly seized Wu's real estate and contacted him through his mobile number. Wu was shocked by the severity of the consequences and expressed deep regret for his actions.

Wu had mistakenly thought that a previous prosecutorial decision of deferred prosecution for three years involving 180 hours of community service, which he completed, covered all penalties. However, he was unaware that a remaining fine of NT\$35,820, after deducting the value of

the community service, was still due (according to the verdict, Wu was originally fined NT\$67,500, and an amount NT\$35,820 remained payable after deducting the 180-hour community service worth NT\$31,680). Hence, Wu kept negligent towards the official letters and wasn't aware of the severe penalty of property seizure until he received calls from enforcement officers of Changhua Branch, and Wu immediately visited the motor vehicles office to repay the fines. This experience brought Wu to profoundly regret his decision to drive under the influence for such a short distance, not only for the criminal record incurred but also for the near loss of his property.

Drunk driving incidents continue to cause unnecessary harm and devastation, often breaking families apart. Despite the repeated warnings and strict laws, some still take their chances. As drunk driving has become the “public enemy”, the public is advised to think twice and don't treat “don't drink and drive” as nothing more than just a slogan. The Changhua Branch enforces a zero-tolerance policy towards drunk driving, demonstrating the government's determination to punish such offenses severely. The Branch's approach balances strict enforcement with a commitment to public safety, urging everyone to cherish their lives and those of others before getting behind the wheels.

