

# Press Release of Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement

## Agency, Ministry of Justice

Date of Release: January 24, 2024

Spokesperson: Chief Enforcement Officer Chiang Chia-Jung

Tel.: 04-7269435#166

Source: Secretary's Office

Contact Person: Director Chen Liang-Tsai

Contact No.: 04-7269435 (211)

## **Government SMS Notification Proven Effective in Resolving**

#### **Old Drunk Driving Cases through Seizure of Ancestral**

#### **Property**

Changhua County –Lin, in his fifties, was accused by Taichung City PD owing to driving without license and refusal to receive breathalyzer test. Taichung City Traffic Adjunction Office penalized Lin under the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act, for further enforcement by the Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice. The obligor piled up a whopping fine overdue surpassing NT\$ 140,000 over the years as his possessed no property for enforcement and compulsory moving-in registration under the household registration office. Recently, the Changhua Branch made its first attempt to notify the obligors of fine repayment via SMS using the "111 Government SMS Platform" by MoDA. With the compulsory seizure of the land partition obtained

through several inheritances, the obligor was ultimately urged to present and clear the fine overdue!

To further implement the case with small amount of fine, to enhance self-payment of the obligor, and to reduce the costs of enforcement, the Changhua Branch joined the pilot program of "111 Government SMS Platform" by MoDA in the end of 2023, amongst which the enforcement officers gained access to the obligor's mobile number through the transferring agency, enabling them to deliver payment notice SMS via the above-mentioned SMS platform. Owing to the system, many civilians have learned about their taxes and fees in arrear and called in to the relevant authority for inquiring repayment in full amount or in installments.

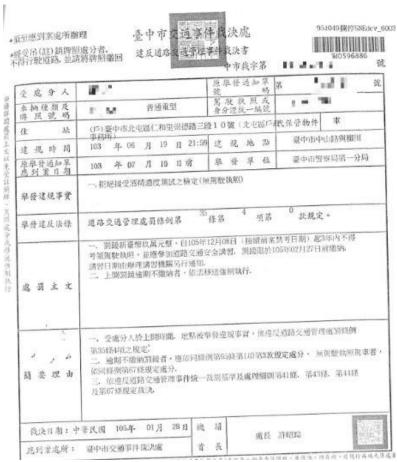
The Changhua Branch's commitment to the "Zero Tolerance for Drunk Driving" policy is further demonstrated by its strengthened enforcement of drunk driving cases aligning to the "Special Project for the Compulsory Enforcement of Overdue Fines from DUI/Drug-Impaired Driving" of Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice. For Lin, who usually earns a living through odd jobs, has proven elusive as attempts to garnish his deposits and wages have been unsuccessful. Due to his frequent changes of workplace and unpredictable whereabouts, as well as compulsory move-in registration to the household registration office, court orders and related official documents have consequently been served by public notice due to the unknown address of delivery. Recently, enforcement officers discovered that Mr. Lin acquired two plots of land from an inheritance division. Considering the looming expiration of enforcement period and that relying solely on public notice for

the delivery of physical seizure documents might be tardy, the enforcement officer have utilized the government's dedicated SMS platform to send text messages, notifying Mr. Lin to make payments voluntarily, in addition to instructing the land registration authorities to seal the properties.

This recent enforcement action have unexpected resulted in Lin voluntarily contacting the enforcement division to arrange installment payments and request the lifting of the seizure. As the enforcement staff have expressed the Branch's determination for enforcing drunk driving cases to eradicate the civilian's pressing of luck, the obligor have finally compromised and raised money from friends and family to pay off the fine for seizure cancellation by the Branch. According to the obligor, he inherited in joint with his siblings the land as the common property at Xihu following the passing of his parents, whose division have been concluded recently. Following the seizure of the ancestral land, Lin realized through the talks with family the remorse in the face of his ancestors, should the land be auctioned due to his wrongdoing; consequently, Lin loaned from his family to pay off the fine over NT\$140,000 and averted the crisis of losing the ancestral land.

The Changhua Branch urges the public to avoid driving under the influence after gathering and feasts involving alcohol, so as to ensure a safe journey home for oneself and others. Meanwhile, the Branch also makes appeals to individuals with outstanding fines from DUI to settle them promptly. Failure to do so will attract strict enforcement actions, including the seizure of bank deposits, movable, and immovable properties, to

curb reckless and irresponsible behavior associated with drunk driving.



▲ Fine Notification to Lin the Obligor for Refusing Breathalyzer Test





▲ Screenshot of the Government SMS Received by Lin the Obligor on Mobile



▲ Lin the Obligor Paying Off the Overdue Fine on Site