



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

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## **Firm Enforcement of Zero Tolerance Policy for Drunk**

### **Driving Ahead of New Year Celebrations**

As the festive season approaches, with increased year-end gatherings, banquets, and reunions, the likelihood of drunk driving incidents may correspondingly rise. Many drivers, unfortunately, take to the roads after drinking, oblivious to the potential harm they cause to innocent bystanders and the devastating impact on families. To uphold the zero-tolerance policy towards drunk driving and prevent recurring incidents, the Administrative Enforcement Agency of the Ministry of Justice has directed all 13 regional branches to implement the fourth phase of a half-a-month specialized enforcement from January 15 to January 31, 2024. The enforcement additionally initiates on January 31 the compulsory enforcement for outstanding fines for drunk driving, showcasing the Agency's determination of anti-drunk driving and ensuring the traffic safety of the civilians.

In a notable case from Xizhou Township, Changhua County, a man surnamed Zheng, previously received a series of penalties including an

NT\$90,000 fine, revocation of driver's license, and compulsory attendance to traffic safety training sessions by the traffic incident adjunction office of Taoyuan City Government in February 2018 for violating Article 35, Paragraph 3 of the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act by exceeding the legal alcohol limit while driving a private car twice within five years, failed to pay the fine within the stipulated deadline. At the end of the 2022, the transferring agency sent the execution certificate to the Changhua Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice (hereinafter "Changhua Branch") for enforcement. As Zheng failed to pay up within the deadline specified in the delivery notice, Changhua Branch in 2023 seized two lands owned by Zheng in Xizhou Township. When the enforcement officers visited Zheng's residence during the implementation of the special project, Zheng's relative was present, stating that Zheng had been living in Taoyuan for years, currently had no means of earning a living and was dependent on his children for support. In the contact made on behalf of the Branch, it was discovered that the co-owners of the real estate i.e. Zheng's brothers, were willing to handle such situation on his behalf. The next day, Zheng's sister-in-law appeared at the Changhua Branch and paid off the total amount due, including a drunk driving fine of NT\$90,000 and other charges such as NHI premium and land value tax, amounting to over NT\$110,000 in total. Zheng's sister-in-law was asked by her husband to pay off the fine to prevent the auction of the seized land-the ancestral property as well as the base of Zheng Family's ancestral house. She then requested the cancellation of property seizure.

According to the Changhua Branch, the Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice, to ensure the safe journey back home for the public, instructed the robust implementation of the zero-tolerance policy against drunk driving and drug-impaired driving in November 2020, with

three phases already completed. The ongoing fourth phase spanning half a month from January 15, 2024 to January 31, 2024 targets obligors with high outstanding amounts in fine or who refuse to comply with breathalyzer tests, ensuring that obligors can no longer evade their financial responsibilities. Having committed multiple drunk driving, Zheng has become the priority in this wave of enforcement. If Zheng had continued to default, legal actions would have been enforced on his ancestral property.

During this enforcement phase, the Changhua Branch is revisiting unresolved cases, updating obligor's financial information, and actively seizing assets such as bank deposits, salaries, vehicles, and real estate. Today (January 31), all 13 branches are conducting synchronized enforcement actions, with Changhua Branch mobilizing full staff to enforce orders at the residences of obligors. Since the start of the special drunk driving/drug-impaired driving fine enforcement, a total of NT\$24.29 million has been collected, compelling offenders to account for their actions. The Changhua Branch also continues to highlight the success of these enforcement actions through media, enhancing public awareness of legal consequences and reinforcing adherence to the law. While the special enforcement phase is temporary, the commitment to upholding traffic justice and ensuring the safety of all road users is ongoing. Changhua Branch will proceed its enforcement of outstanding drunk driving fines to maintain justice in traffic and safety of the road users, and furthermore make the drunk driving offenders remorse and let the civilians perceive the improved traffic safety.

The Changhua Branch urges everyone, especially during the upcoming year-end and New Year celebrations, to refrain from driving after drinking. Opt for designated drivers or arrange for lifts from friends,

and remember, "Do not drive under the influence" to ensure a safe and joyful holiday season.

