

Social Services (8)

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Social Service for the Elderly

1. What is the liberalization measure for the elderly service sector under CEPA?

Under the Supplement IV to CEPA, Hong Kong Service Suppliers (HKSS) are allowed to operate elderly service agencies in the form of wholly-owned private non-enterprise units to provide elderly services in Guangdong Province. The Supplement VII to CEPA signed in May 2011 further extends the coverage of the above measure from Guangdong Province to all the municipalities/provinces in the Mainland.

2. How can HKSS benefit from the new liberalization measure?

Before the introduction of the liberalization measure, HKSS could only register as private companies if they wanted to operate on a wholly-owned basis in the Mainland. Under the liberalization measure, HKSS can operate elderly service agencies that provide residential or community services in the Mainland as private non-enterprise units. Such HKSS-run elderly service agencies are entitled to the same prevailing preferential treatments granted by the Mainland authorities to other social welfare agencies.

3. What entities can benefit from the new liberalization measure?

The new liberalization measure benefits entities that are holders of valid Licences of Residential Care Home for the Elderly issued by the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations that provide subsidised elderly services. They must meet the definition of HKSS under CEPA and have engaged in substantive elderly services in Hong Kong for three years or above.

4. What is a “private non-enterprise unit”?

Under the *Provisional Regulation Concerning the Registration and Administration of Private Non-enterprise Units* promulgated by the State Council, a private non-enterprise unit is a community organisation established by enterprises, public service units, social

organisations and other community forces and individual citizens with non-state assets to engage in non-profit service activities.

Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

5. What is the liberalization measure for the social service sector under CEPA?

Under the Supplement V to CEPA, Hong Kong Service Suppliers (HKSS) are allowed to operate rehabilitation service agencies in the form of wholly-owned private non-enterprise units to provide services for persons with disabilities in Guangdong Province. The Supplement VII to CEPA signed in May 2011 further extends the coverage of the above measure from Guangdong Province to all the municipalities/provinces in the Mainland.

6. How can HKSS benefit from the new liberalization measure?

Before the introduction of the liberalization measure, HKSS could only register as private companies if they wanted to operate on a wholly-owned basis to provide rehabilitation services in the Mainland. Under the liberalization measure, HKSS can operate rehabilitation service agencies that provide residential or community services in the Mainland as private non-enterprise units. Such HKSS-run rehabilitation service agencies are entitled to the same prevailing preferential treatments granted by the Mainland Province authorities to other social welfare agencies.

7. What entities can benefit from the new liberalization measure?

The new liberalization measure benefits rehabilitation service operators meeting the definition of HKSS under CEPA and have engaged in substantive rehabilitation services in Hong Kong for no less than three years. Further details will be announced.

8. What is a “private non-enterprise unit”?

Under the *Provisional Regulation Concerning the Registration and Administration of Private Non-enterprise Units* promulgated by the State Council, a private non-enterprise unit is a community organisation established by enterprises, public service units, social organisations and other community forces and individual citizens with non-state assets to engage in non-profit service activities.