



## Press Release

Taipei District Prosecutors Office

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**During the "COVID-19" epidemic, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office strengthened the protection of the investigation rooms and the equipment to maintain the establishment of colleagues' safety and created a "COVID-19 related violations checklist". To handle the cases quickly and correctly, enhance the people's sense of trust and security, and jointly protect the health of the people, we comprehensively sort out the possible types of criminal actions and legal responsibilities from relevant laws and regulations**

In response to the "COVID-19" (commonly known as Wuhan Pneumonia) epidemic, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office followed the principles of the conclusion from the meeting "A Study on the Ways to bring the Inbound Wanted Criminals with Tourism History in PRC, Hong Kong and Macao to justice during the COVID-

19 pandemic” held by the Ministry of Justice. According to the set of reference principles, relevant equipment and prescribed procedures shall be set up for the method of repatriating arrested persons in flagrante delicto and the entry of wanted criminals with travel history in PRC, Hong Kong and Macao to maintain the safety and health of litigants and colleagues. They are as follows:

1. Strengthen the protection of investigation room and other equipment to maintain the safety of colleagues

(1) The Taipei District Prosecutors Office installed a transparent acrylic plate between the prosecutor’s seat and the parties’ seats to properly block the droplets.

(2) After examining the space and possible routes of the building, the identification room on the first floor has been planned as an interrogation place used for suspects of "COVID-19". The area is divided into access routes and appropriate detention spaces to reduce the risk of group infection.

(3) A few days ago, after visiting the negative-pressure isolated investigation room and detention room in Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office, we have invited professional manufacturers to come and evaluate. It is recommended to set up a simple investigation room according to the specifications of the Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office, and to formulate standard operating procedures for colleagues to follow.

2. Flagrant offenders suspected of "COVID-19" or the entry wanted criminal with a history of tourism in PRC, Hong Kong and Macao shall be brought to justice and questioned by webcam as possible

- (1) Except for those who are determined to be compulsorily committed to hospital for treatment by the airport quarantine unit, after arresting the flagrant offender or wanted criminal, the judicial police officer should first confirm the identity and quarantine status of the person and whether there is fever or respiratory symptoms, etc. All immigrants from PRC, Hong Kong and Macao should notify their quarantine status, and the prosecutor on duty in the internal work should consider and direct the flagrant offender or the wanted criminal to be brought to justice, or instruct to change the place of the location to the judicial police office or any other appropriate place on the circular order. The remote interrogation should be handled in an appropriate manner. Both sides should record audio and video throughout the whole process to ensure a non-disclosure investigation.
- (2) When the flagrant offender or wanted criminal is brought to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office, the judicial police officer would be notified to bring the offender to the identification room on the first floor via a specific entrance and exit. After being interrogated by the prosecutor, the compulsory measure would be posted according to law. If the wanted case was set in need of the enforcement of incarceration, the criminals should be sent to prison or suspend the incarceration(if there is a fever and other doubts, suspend the incarceration as much as possible to avoid group infection in the prison. If the prisoner is sent to the prison, it must be notified to the prison in advance to enhance guarding level).

3. The “COVID-19 related violations checklist” has been put on “The Taipei District Prosecutors Office Livelihood Crime Investigation Platform” (hereinafter “the platform”) , and the office has designated 4 groups of 28 special prosecutors to work together with the judicial police office to strictly investigate the violation of the Communicable Disease Control Act.

By initiating the Platform, the Taipei District Prosecutors Office proactively contacts fair trade, health, police, consumer protection, immigration, pharmacist associations and other agencies within the jurisdiction through the launched of "Communications for Detecting Livelihood Crimes". It also convened the "Communications for Investigating Livelihood Crimes" to handle "COVID-19" meetings involving related illegal cases, to discuss the actions and legal responsibilities of possible violations of relevant laws and regulations during the epidemic situation, and to strengthen the communication between relevant supervisors or responsible authorities. "COVID-19 related violations checklist" comprehensively summarizes the actions and legal responsibilities of possible violations of relevant laws and regulations during the epidemic period in order to quickly and correctly handle the case and make every effort to investigate the illegality, enhance the people's sense of trust and security, and jointly protect the health of the people!