



# Press Release From Administrative Enforcement Agency, Taichung Branch, Ministry of Justice

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## Man Immediately Pays Off Unpaid Drunk Driving Fine After Taichung Branch Discovers Property Transfer

Obligor Mr. Shih (male, 66 years old) had his scooter driver's license revoked by the Taichung City Traffic Adjudication Office (hereinafter referred to as the Adjudication Office) for drunk driving and was banned from taking the license exam for three years. However, he committed another drunk driving offense during the ban period, resulting in a cumulative exam ban of over six years, which was aggravated to a lifetime ban from taking the scooter license exam. Despite this, in February 2020, he caught driving under the influence (DUI) again without a license and refused to take a breathalyzer test. As a result, the Adjudication Office fined him NT\$189,000 and ordered him to pay within a specified deadline. Since he failed to pay past the due date, the Adjudication Office referred the case to the Taichung Branch of the Administrative Enforcement Agency, Ministry of Justice (hereinafter referred to as the Taichung

Branch) for compulsory enforcement on April 19, 2022.

According to information provided by the Adjudication Office, the only asset under Mr. Shih's name was a car over 30 years old. Although it had not been officially scrapped with the competent authority, it was presumably no longer roadworthy. The scooters he rode during his multiple drunk driving offenses had different license plate numbers and none belonged to him, suggesting he had temporarily borrowed them from others before driving under the influence.

Now over 65 years old and without a steady job, the Taichung Branch issued an enforcement order to freeze his deposits at relevant financial institutions. However, the financial institution reported back that Mr. Shih's deposits consisted of social assistance funds, which are legally exempt from seizure.

Unwilling to give up, the Taichung Branch launched a relentless investigation and discovered that Mr. Shih previously owned real estate. He had been delinquent on his house and land value taxes of 2003, a case that was referred for enforcement by the Local Tax Bureau of Taichung City Government but was paid in full immediately after notification from the Taichung Branch. Since then, he had not owed any further house or land value taxes. However, recent checks revealed that the real estate was no longer under his name.

The Taichung Branch ordered Mr. Shih to appear at the office on May 8, 2026 to explain the situation. Mr. Shih stated he had an unexpected conflict that day and requested a postponement to May 27. When he finally arrived and the Taichung Branch questioned him regarding the details of the property transfer, Mr. Shih immediately expressed his willingness to pay off the outstanding fines for unlicensed driving and drunk driving—totalling NT\$189,000—right on the spot.

In conclusion, the Taichung Branch stated that the Administrative Enforcement Agency under the Ministry of Justice has established a referral channel for alcoholism treatment in cooperation with the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center. If obligors are willing, the respective branches of the Administrative Enforcement Agency can assist in referring them to the center in hopes of reducing the harm caused by alcohol addiction. The Taichung Branch strongly urges obligors with alcohol dependency to bravely accept alcohol rehabilitation treatment, rather than harming themselves and others, leaving behind lifelong regrets.