

ADVISORY ON COMPLIANCE WITH MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS (EXEMPTION) ORDER 2018

1. The Police have recently detected breaches under the Message Establishments (Exemption) Order 2018 (**“ME Exemption Order”**) committed by persons working in Traditional Chinese Medicine (**“TCM”**) clinics.
2. There were cases where non-TCM registered persons were detected administering massages to their customers. There were also more serious cases where persons working within the TCM clinics provided sexual services and/or engaged in indecent acts with customers.
3. The Police wish to take the opportunity to remind registered TCM practitioners that under the ME Exemption Order, a TCM clinic is exempted from an ME licence only if the TCM practitioner registered under Section 14 of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act 2000 and has in force a practising certificate issued under Section 17 of that Act, personally administers the massage himself or herself.
4. If a person who is not a registered TCM practitioner administers the massage, the Police will investigate the TCM clinic for breach of the ME Exemption Order. Alternatively, if a TCM clinic wishes to have non-TCM registered persons administer the massage, the clinic may apply for an ME licence from the Police.
5. The Police wish to reiterate that under the Message Establishments Act 2017, a person who operates a massage establishment without a licence is liable for court prosecution and on conviction, may be sentenced to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both. Where the person is a repeat offender, he may be liable for a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both. On conclusion of case, the Police will also notify the TCMP Board for the Board to deliberate on disciplinary action, if applicable.
6. If you require clarification about this advisory, please send us your query by filling out this form (<https://www.go.gov.sg/spf-prd>).

**POLICE REGULATORY DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
27 JUNE 2025**
