



Survey administered jointly by Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong and the Concern Group of Guardianship System and Financial Affairs



Ascertaining the need for Special Needs Trusts in Hong Kong

Date: 9 March 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Hui Pun Hing Lecture Hall, Library Building (New Wing), The University of Hong Kong (HKU Station Exit A1 (please walk up the staircase to reach the Lecture Hall))

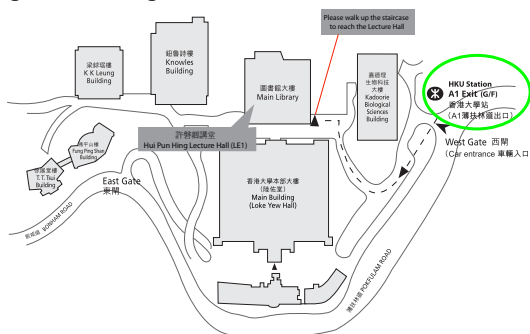
According to government statistics, about 70,000 to 100,000 persons in Hong Kong have intellectual disabilities. While these individuals have the legal right to own assets, they may require support and guidance from their parents or caregivers to help them make complex financial decisions, and sometimes even to make these decisions on their behalf. When their parents or caregivers are no longer around to help in these respects, they need a safe and reliable mechanism of financial management. Such needs have become imminent as their parents or caregivers age.

To ascertain the needs and demands for such mechanisms in Hong Kong, the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong and the Concern Group of Guardianship System and Financial Affairs* are jointly carrying out a survey to ascertain the use of the available mechanisms in Hong Kong (including the will, guardianship order, enduring power of attorney). More importantly, the government has announced in the Chief Executive's policy address 2016 that the Labour and Welfare Bureau will establish a working group to explore the feasibility of establishing a public trust, with a view to providing affordable services for people with intellectual disability. We therefore hope to ascertain the preferences of parents and caregivers in relation to the possibility of setting up a Special Needs Trust in HK.

We will hold a forum on 9 March 2016 (Moderator: Ms Anna Lee; Speakers: Professor Lusina Ho and Associate Professor Rebecca Lee) to explain the background of the survey and the relevant legal concepts to parents and social workers, and assist parents in filling out the questionnaires during the briefing session.

The forum will be conducted in Cantonese, while the questionnaire and reference materials will be available in both English and Chinese versions. If you are unable to attend this forum, you may download the questionnaire and reference materials at www.snt.support from 9 March onwards, and send your completed questionnaire to snt.support@hku.hk or to Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong by post [Attn: Special Needs Trust].

* The Concern Group of Guardianship System and Financial Affairs is established by a group of parents and caretakers of persons with intellectual disability. Its mission is to strive for a better adult guardianship system through examining its current weaknesses and seeking for improvements of the policies and institutions pertaining to adult guardianship. It is hoped that these efforts will enhance personal care and financial management arrangements for individuals with intellectual disability in Hong Kong.



Online Registration : www.law.hku.hk/seminar/090316/

All are welcome

Faculty of Law

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