



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS BOARD

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Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board

ANNOUNCEMENT

Suspension and Censure of TCM Physician

Madam Chen Yu (陳瑜) is a registered Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioner with the TCM Practitioners Board. At all material times, she was practising at Young TCM Centre, located at 8A Sago Street, Singapore 059012.

2 A complaint was lodged against Chen Yu (“**Madam Chen**”) on 19 May 2019, by way of an email from a Police Inspector of the General Licensing Division, Police Licensing & Regulatory Department of the Singapore Police Force (the “**Complaint**”). The Inspector informed the Board that Madam Chen had been charged with and convicted of 1 count of operating an establishment for massage without a licence, in breach of the Massage Establishments Act 2017 (Act 45 of 2017), on 15 April 2019 (the “**Conviction**”). Madam Chen was sentenced to pay fines of S\$3,000 by the State Courts.

3 An Inquiry Committee was convened by the Board to investigate into the Complaint. On the conclusion of hearing, the Inquiry Committee found that the Complaint and the Conviction concerned an offence which implied a defect in character which rendered Madam Chen unfit to remain on the Register of the Board under section 19(1)(h) of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act 2000 (the “**TCMP Act**”); and that Madam Chen’s conduct in regard to the Complaint and the Conviction amounted to an improper act and conduct under section 19(1)(k) of the TCMP Act.

4 Given its findings, the Inquiry Committee recommended to the Board that Madam Chen’s registration as a TCM practitioner be suspended for a period of 3 months, that she provides a written undertaking to abstain from the conduct that is the subject of the Conviction, and be censured.

5 Madam Chen was given an opportunity to offer her explanation and mitigation in person on 6 April 2023. Prior to that, Madam Chen appealed for a lighter punishment through a letter from the MP for Jalan Besar GRC dated 20 March 2023.

6 In determining the sanctions, the Board considered the relevant factors from the IC’s findings which include the following:

- a) Madam Chen had caused harm to the reputation of the TCM profession as she had associated herself professionally with services that were not compatible with the TCM practice;
- b) Madam Chen applied for a massage establishment license on several occasions;
- c) There was no evidence suggesting that Madam Chen was operating an establishment with vice activities; and
- d) No harm was caused to Madam Chen's patients or customers or at least none had been alleged.

7 The mitigating factors raised by Madam Chen include the following:

- a) Madam Chen was a first time offender;
- b) She cooperated with the Board's investigations from the outset;
- c) She did not attempt to raise any objections to the Complaint or the Conviction;
- d) She has ceased operating the Sago Street Outlet and it is unlikely she will re-offend;
- e) Prior to her Conviction, she notified the Board of the Charge on or about 28 March 2019 and informed of the Board of her wrongdoing; and
- f) Madam Chen had lost about S\$40,000 arising from the closure of the Sago Street Outlet, and this is probably a painful lesson for her.

8 Having considered the factors in paragraph 6 and 7, the Board decided to impose the following sanctions against Madam Chen pursuant to section 19(2) of the TCMP Act:

- (a) suspension of Madam Chen's TCM registration for a period of two (2) months, effective from 4 June 2023 to 3 August 2023;**
- (b) provision of a written undertaking to abstain from the conduct that is the subject of the earlier criminal conviction; and**
- (c) censure.**

9 Madam Chen was also ordered to pay for the costs and expenses of and incidental to the inquiry conducted and action taken against her pursuant to section 20(1) of the TCMP Act.

10 The Board takes a serious view towards any breaches of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines. Disciplinary action will be taken against TCM practitioners who associate themselves with unlicensed massage establishments and bring disrepute to the TCM profession.

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD
12 JUNE 2023