

EA Alert Dated: 6 February 2015

EA Alert: Provide your Clients (FDWs) with Acceptable Accommodation

As your EA places foreign domestic workers (FDWs), we wish to remind you about the importance of providing acceptable accommodation for FDWs who are in-transit prior to or in between placements.

2. FDWs may stay with their EA while they are waiting to be placed with their employers. As an EA, you are responsible for providing acceptable accommodation to the FDWs when they are housed with you. The accommodation should meet the following requirements:

- a. Adequate shelter. The accommodation must adequately protect the FDW from environmental elements such as the sun, rain or strong winds.
- b. Safe. The FDW should not sleep near any dangerous equipment or structure that could potentially cause harm or hurt to her.
- c. Sufficient ventilation. The accommodation must be sufficiently ventilated. Mechanical ventilation (e.g. electrical fan) should be provided if natural ventilation is inadequate.
- d. Basic amenities. The FDW must minimally be provided a mattress, a pillow, and a blanket.
- e. Protection of modesty. The FDW must not sleep in the same room as a male adult / teenager.
- f. Space and privacy. Sufficient space and privacy should be provided for the FDW.

3. MOM has received complaints about EAs that provided unacceptable accommodation to their FDWs-in-transit. Here are some examples of cases that MOM has investigated:

- a. Overcrowded conditions. Some FDWs were made to sleep in the common corridor, living room and the kitchen area. Others had to share mattresses as there were not enough. As the fans were spoilt, the premises were not well-ventilated and were very warm.
- b. Unhygienic conditions. The premises were dirty, unhygienic and infested with bed bugs. Some FDWs were bitten by bed bugs and suffered from skin irritation.

4. EAs that fail to provide acceptable accommodation may be fined up to \$5,000 or jailed up to 6 months. EAs found to have acted in a manner detrimental to the interest of its client under Section 11(1)(c) of the Employment Agencies Act may be given demerit points or have their licence revoked and security deposit forfeited.

5. In addition, you must register the addresses of such housing with MOM within 5 working days of its use, and deregister within 30 working days of cessation of use. Please note that the registration of addresses is for record and contact tracing purposes, and a successful registration with MOM does not mean that the premises are approved to house FDWs-in-transit.

6. You should separately ensure that the housing of FDWs-in-transit does not contravene prevailing rules and regulations set by agencies such as the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Housing Development Board, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Public Utility Board, Building & Construction Authority and National Environment Agency. You may wish to write in to URA at [[ura\\_dcd@ura.gov.sg](mailto:ura_dcd@ura.gov.sg)] if you have any change-of-use proposals for housing of the FDWs-in-transit.

7. MOM will continue to share important EA-related information with all EAs through this channel. Please keep your EA's email address updated. For further clarification, you may call 6438 5122 or email [MOM\\_FMMD@mom.gov.sg](mailto:MOM_FMMD@mom.gov.sg). Thank you.

Yours sincerely

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