



## Don't hesitate to report corruption

Full evidence is not required when lodging a complaint to or making an enquiry with the ICAC. All information is kept strictly confidential. Corruption reports can be made through the following channels:

**By phone:** 25 266 366 (24-hour hotline)

**By mail:** G.P.O. Box 1000, Hong Kong

**In person:** ICAC Report Centre (24-hour service)  
G/F, 303 Java Road, North Point,  
Hong Kong  
Or ICAC Regional Offices



### ICAC Regional Offices

#### Hong Kong East

Unit 3, G/F, East Town Building, 16 Fenwick Street,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong  
2519 6555

#### Hong Kong West/Islands

Ground Floor, Harbour Commercial Building,  
124 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong  
2543 0000

#### Kowloon East/Sai Kung

Shop No. 9, G/F, Chevalier Commercial Centre,  
8 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon  
2756 3300

#### Kowloon West

Ground Floor, Nathan Commercial Building,  
434-436 Nathan Road, Kowloon  
2780 8080

#### New Territories East

G06-G13, G/F, Shatin Government Offices,  
1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Shatin, New Territories  
2606 1144

#### New Territories North West

G/F, Fu Hing Building, 230 Castle Peak Road,  
Yuen Long, New Territories  
2459 0459

#### New Territories South West

Shop B1, G/F, Tsuen Kam Centre,  
300-350 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories  
2493 7733



[www.icac.org.hk](http://www.icac.org.hk)

J6566/17\_J72/20/21

One false move



and the game is over



Hong Kong is a commercial city where competition is keen. While giving your best at work, you should stay alert to the ever more tricky corruption traps to avoid breaking the law inadvertently. The following cases provide some useful lessons.





## Corruption doesn't pay



With his hard work, a clerk of a toys company was promoted to the post of buyer within three years. In his new position, he was responsible for negotiating prices and placing orders with the suppliers of toys parts. One of the suppliers not only treated him to frequent meals and entertainment, but also lent him money for stock speculation. The supplier even offered him a rebate equivalent to 10% of the total value of each contract awarded by the buyer. Although the components provided by the supplier were not of the best quality, the buyer, who succumbed to the temptation of money, still agreed to place orders with the supplier. The buyer eventually accepted illegal rebates totaling nearly \$400,000 from the supplier for placing a number of orders.

The illegal scam was discovered and the duo were sentenced to jail and fined. The buyer was dismissed by the toys company and his criminal record also disqualified him and his family from immigration to a foreign country.

**As the case shows, a wrong decision and the abuse of authority for personal gain will bring you criminal liabilities and ruin your future.**



## Anti-bribery laws to maintain fairness

The buyer and the supplier who respectively accepted and offered bribes in the case have violated Section 9 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance ("POBO"). The spirit of the POBO is to ensure fairness and integrity in business transactions as well as safeguard the interests of both the employees and the employers.

Under Section 9, any private sector employee who, without his employer's authorization and permission, solicits or accepts an advantage by abusing his authority in relation to his employer's business is deemed to have accepted a bribe, while the offeror of the advantage is deemed to have offered a bribe. Both the offeror and the acceptor of a bribe shall be guilty of an offence under the POBO.

In addition, any employee who uses any false document, receipt or account with an intent to deceive his employer shall also be guilty of an offence under Section 9.

**The maximum penalties for an offence under Section 9 of the POBO are imprisonment of seven years and a fine of \$500,000.**



## Definition of "advantage"

Under the POBO, "advantage" is given a wide definition which includes any gift, loan, reward, commission, employment or contract, service or favour, payment of any fees, etc. Entertainment (the provision of food or drink for consumption on the occasion when it is provided), however, is not an advantage.



## Be cautious about accepting advantages

It is lawful for an employee to accept an advantage in relation to his duties so long as he has obtained his employer's permission. Therefore, you should take note of the following if someone offers you money, gifts or other advantages:

- ✓ Act in accordance with your company's policy to decide whether to accept the advantages or not.
- ✓ If your company does not have any clear instructions or the advantages involved exceed the limit set by your company, you should obtain prior permission from your employer before accepting them.



## Report corruption to protect your interests

Upholding integrity is everybody's concern. Reporting corruption is the best way to maintain a clean and fair society and to protect your own interests. The following case is an example:

A warehouse worker, who newly joined a food company, discovered that his colleagues took no actions on the short deliveries of supplies by some suppliers. Recently, his supervisor offered him some cash saying that it was for his "overtime work", and hinted that he should turn a blind eye to what was happening in return for more "advantages". He decided to report the suspected corruption case to the ICAC as he did not want to get involved in the corrupt dealings. ICAC inquiries revealed that a number of employees of the company, including managers and warehouse supervisors, had colluded in accepting illegal rebates from the suppliers in the past eight years. The corrupt employees were eventually sentenced to imprisonment for bribery offences. The corruption syndicate which had operated for years was finally cracked.

**Resisting temptation and reporting corruption are the best ways to avoid being implicated in corruption and to safeguard your personal interests.**