



CORRUPTION MYTHS in the Business Community

Advantage is a prime concern in the business world. However, some customary practices and habits about advantage in our day-to-day business operations might lure us into corruption traps. As a wage earner or a business proprietor, have you ever been entangled in the common myths below ?

Wage earners...

- “Accepting an advantage under \$500 does not constitute corruption”
- “There is no need to report to my company if I win a lucky draw prize in a supplier’s event”
- “I only need to inform my supervisor after accepting an advantage at work”
- “It is okay to ask my colleague to clock in for me first when I am running late for work”

Business proprietors...

- “There should not be any problem if I sponsor my client’s annual dinner”
- “It is not against the law to offer gifts or hampers to my clients on festive occasions”
- “I must offer commission to the intermediary for business referral as it is a trade practice”
- “A company director can receive personal benefits at work to subsidise his business expenditures”



Eager to bust the myths?

Visit our thematic webpage

“Busted! 12 Myths about Corruption” now!



Facts about Prevention of Bribery Ordinance

BRIBERY

Any agent (usually an employee) who, without the approval of his principal (usually an employer), solicits or accepts an advantage when conducting his principal's affairs or business, shall commit an offence. The offeror of the advantage is also guilty of an offence.

Example: A company staff member accepts money from a supplier without the company's approval as an inducement to awarding a contract to the supplier. Both the supplier and the staff member shall violate Section 9 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.



Advantage includes, irrespective of the value, any gift, loan, fee, reward, commission, office, contract, service, favour and discharge of loan or liability, but does not include entertainment.

FALSE DOCUMENT

Any agent, with intent to deceive and mislead his principal, uses any false document shall be guilty of an offence.

Example: An employee submits a false overtime claim form with overstated working hours to deceive overtime payment. The employee shall violate Section 9(3) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.



Maximum penalty: \$500,000 fine and 7 years' imprisonment

Visit the ICAC website to know more about the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance www.icac.org.hk

Adopt zero tolerance! Report corruption!

By Phone: 25 266 366 (24-hour hotline)

By Mail: G.P.O. Box 1000, Hong Kong

In Person: ICAC Report Centre (24-hour); or 7 Regional Offices



List of Regional Offices