

EA Alert Dated: 24 May 2018

EA Alert: Two Employment Agencies charged for deploying underage Foreign Domestic Workers

Dear Key Appointment Holder and EA Personnel,

We refer to the advisory on underage foreign domestic workers (FDWs) (EA Alert 12/2017) sent in August 2017 to all employment agencies (EAs) which place FDWs.

2 Despite reminders, we continue to find underage FDWs during our regular checks at the Settling-In-Programme and Work Pass Services Centre. Some EAs are still not paying due heed.

3 Today at the State Courts, the Ministry charged two EAs, Casa Employment Specialist Pte Ltd and Vista Employment Services, for each placing an underage FDW. The workers were 13 years old. The EAs have been served with notices of licence suspension. On conviction, the EAs' licences will be revoked and their security deposits forfeited.

4 In the last three years, the Ministry has also taken enforcement actions against 98 other EAs for placing underage FDWs, including the issuance of demerit points. EAs that have accumulated demerit points may face other administrative actions such as forfeiture of security deposit. EAs may also be prosecuted.

5 EAs must be vigilant and thorough when conducting age verification of FDWs. When in doubt, the worker should not be deployed. Please refer to the advisory (EA Alert 12/2017) on the steps you are required to take before deploying an FDW to her employer. The advisory can be found on the MOM website at www.mom.gov.sg/employment-agencies/employment-agency-publications.

6 For further clarification, you may call 6438 5122 or email MOM_FMMD@mom.gov.sg.