

WARNING ON FRAUD CASES

The Probate Registry of the High Court of Hong Kong has recently received overseas enquiries about suspected fraud cases and the authenticity of some documents. Having checked these documents, it was confirmed that they were not issued by the Probate Registry notwithstanding that they bore the Court seal or emblem of Hong Kong.

The suspected fraud cases asked the victims (who were not applicants at the Hong Kong Probate Registry) to pay some administrative charges or probate service fees ranging from US\$1,674 to US\$19,870 in order to inherit an estate.

Please note that the Probate Registry only levies administrative charges according to statute. Those charges are to be paid by an applicant for a grant of probate or letters of administration, etc. and never by an individual person who inherits an estate (unless, of course, that person is an applicant). If an applicant is represented by a firm of solicitors, the administrative charges are usually paid through that firm.

If you are not an applicant but receive any request to pay some administrative or other charges in order to inherit an estate and have doubt in such request, you may consult your legal advisor, report the matter to the local Police or seek confirmation from the Probate Registry through the following email: probate@judiciary.hk

Probate Registry,
High Court, Hong Kong
25 June 2010