

# **Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

## **Introduction**

1. The Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme aims to provide cash assistance to eligible elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients who choose to take up permanent residence in Guangdong or Fujian.
2. This leaflet outlines the main features of Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme. For more detailed information, please refer to the pamphlet 'Notice to Applicants for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance' (only Chinese version is available), which is available at any social security field unit of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

## **Eligibility**

3. To meet the eligibility criteria of the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, a person must, in addition to satisfying the income and asset tests under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme:
  - (a) be a Hong Kong permanent resident and have lived in Hong Kong for at least seven years;
  - (b) be aged 65 or above;
  - (c) have received Comprehensive Social Security Assistance continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (breaks in payment totalling not more than 10 days with this one-year period are allowed); and
  - (d) continues to reside in Guangdong or Fujian during receipt of assistance.
4. The applicant is required to declare the scheduled date of his/her departure from Hong Kong to take up permanent residence in Guangdong or Fujian, which must fall within three months of the date of application for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.

5. If the applicant is a Public Rental Housing (PRH) tenant, he/she is required to surrender his/her PRH unit or delete his/her name from tenancy before he/she departs from Hong Kong in order to be eligible for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance.

### **Amount of assistance**

6. An applicant eligible for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance will be entitled to the monthly standard rate and the annual long-term supplement. No special grants or other payments (such as rent allowance, special diet allowance, travelling expenses) will be made to a Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipient.

7. In case of the death of a Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipient, a burial grant to meet the burial and related expenses can be made to the deceased recipient's relative or friend who is responsible for the burial arrangements on a reimbursement basis. The burial grant applicant must make an application and produce the necessary documents within six months of the date of death of the recipient. In cases where the burial grant applicant resides in Guangdong or Fujian, the application can be processed by the SWD's agent (for more information about the SWD's agent, please read the pamphlet 'Notice to Applicants for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance' (only Chinese version is available)).

### **Application**

8. All application procedures are processed in Hong Kong. An elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipient should bring along the necessary documents to apply for Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance in person at the social security field unit which handles his/her Comprehensive Social Security Assistance case. If he/she has a mobility problem, he/she can apply by phone or by post so that a home visit can be arranged.

### **Method of payment**

9. Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payment will be credited to the successful applicant/appointee's Hong Kong bank account monthly. Applicant/Appointee is required to make his/her own arrangements to collect Portable

Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments from that account (for example, applicant/appointee can make arrangements with the bank to remit the payments to him/her in Guangdong or Fujian). Any expenses thus incurred have to be borne by him/her. Currently, certain banks have fee waiving arrangements, applicant/appointee may enquire with the banks concerned. Applicant/Appointee can also choose to receive assistance payments from the SWD directly through his/her bank account designated by SWD on the Mainland, with no service fee charged.

### **Appeals**

10. If an applicant disagrees with a decision made by the SWD, he/she may lodge an appeal at the Social Security Appeal Board, which is an independent body comprising non-officials appointed by the Chief Executive. An appeal must be lodged within four weeks immediately following the date of notification of the decision from the SWD. Enquiries about appeal procedures can be made with the social security field unit concerned.

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