



Dear Students,

## **ADVISORY FOR THE 2018 YEAR-END SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

With the December school holidays approaching, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would like to remind students of the dire consequences of committing crime and drug/inhalant abuse, as well as to take measures to avoid being victims of crime.

### **Drug and Inhalant Abuse Situation**

**2 Be vigilant. Inhalant abuse is harmful and can cause permanent damage to your body and organs.** We must continue to be vigilant against the harmful effects of drugs. Pursue a healthy lifestyle and indulge in activities and/or hobbies during this period to enrich and develop greater mental and physical resilience and to enjoy a drug-free lifestyle.

**3 Students should be mindful that the possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.** The local drug abuse situation remains challenging with new abusers making up about 40% of drug abusers arrested in 2017. Close to two-thirds of these new drug abusers arrested were below the age of 30.

**4 Keeping watch – online drug activities.** Drug syndicates and peddlers have taken advantage of the borderless nature of the Internet to conduct illegal drug activities. CNB is monitoring the situation and has taken action against those who order drugs online or have the drugs delivered by post or courier. CNB will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in illegal drug activities.

**5 Stay away from drugs even when you are overseas.** Drug consumption is an offence regardless of where the drug is consumed. Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who are found to have consumed controlled drugs outside Singapore will be liable for the drug consumption offence as if the offence has been committed in Singapore.

## **Do not get involved in Crime**

6 **Do not let yourself or your friends succumb to temptation or peer pressure to steal.** Theft is a serious offence that could result in a criminal record.

7 For your safety, **avoid getting into confrontations**, especially when gathering in groups. These can easily lead to fights that can result in serious injury or even death. **Also, note that joining a gang (being a member of an unlawful society) is a crime.** It is a crime to be a gang member in Singapore even if you do not participate in any gang activities and there are consequences such as getting into fights over staring incidents, passing of remarks and relationship issues which are punishable by hefty jail term and fines.

8 **Do exercise caution when taking up part-time jobs, especially those promising quick and easy money.** Youths had been recruited for unlicensed moneylending activities via responding to job ads online (e.g. Facebook, Carousell, Gumtree, etc.). Regardless of the role performed, whether it be opening a bank account, distributing pamphlets, acting as look-outs, being runners or harassers, these are criminal activities with serious consequences such as a hefty fine, jail term and even caning.

9 **Do not attempt to use forged documents or another person's identification document** to circumvent the age-specific restrictions. These include trying to enter Public Entertainment (PE) outlets like discotheques and nightclubs, or signing up for mobile lines. You can be liable for the offence of Cheating which is punishable with a fine and even jail term. **Be mindful that you can be arrested for fraudulent possession of properties.** This includes possession of cards (such as Ezlink cards or bank cards) that do not belong to you. Anyone who has in his or her possession of properties that are stolen or fraudulently obtained is guilty of an offence and shall be punished by a jail term or fine.

10 **Do not attempt to cheat others online via online platforms such as Carousell, Facebook and Gumtree.** More students have been arrested for online purchase scams where victims did not receive the goods after making payments to the culprits. Cheating is punishable with a fine and even jail term.

## **Preventing yourself from becoming a Victim of Crime**

11 **Always take care of your personal belongings, stay alert to your surroundings, and avoid uncomfortable situations with strangers.** Do arrange for an adult family member or trusted friend to escort you home when returning alone late at night.

12 **Be careful when shopping online.** Approximately 9 out of 10 reports of online purchase scams occur on online community marketplaces such as Carousell and Facebook. In cases of online purchase scam, scammers often entice buyers to purchase popular items at very low prices, without any intention of delivering the items after receiving payments. Popular items include USS/concert tickets, and electronic gadgets. In some cases, scammers even

cheated victims into making multiple payments on false claims of customs/processing fees, securing better deals with bulk purchases, etc. Always be wary of people selling items at prices that sound too good to be true. Reduce your risks by arranging for a physical meet-up and pay only after receiving your item. If advanced payments are required, use shopping platforms or arrangements that will release your payment to the seller only upon your receipt of the item.

13 **Be very careful of who you befriend online.** Exercise caution when corresponding with strangers online. Scammers may impersonate your friend on social networking sites by hacking their account or creating a fake account using your friend's profile picture and details. Be wary especially towards people who ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. Personal information, such as phone numbers and mobile PIN numbers, can be used to make online purchases without your consent. If you are meeting an online friend in person for the first time, always make sure that you have trusted friends or a family member around. Do not allow yourself to be coerced into uncomfortable or compromising situations.

14 **Bear in mind that the party whom you are dealing with online is a stranger.** Although scammers may provide a copy of an Identification Card or Driver's license to gain your trust, it may not necessarily belong to the person that you are communicating with online. You may check the validity of the NRIC on ICA's iEnquiry portal at: <https://ienquiry.ica.gov.sg/mobile/vCheck.do>.

### **Resources for Crime Prevention**

15 The following provides more information on crime awareness and prevention:

- Sign up for the Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme to help advocate for a drug-free Singapore. For more information, please follow us on CNB's social media handles @CNB.DrugFreeSG (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube) or contact us at: [cnb\\_preventive\\_education\\_unit@cnb.gov.sg](mailto:cnb_preventive_education_unit@cnb.gov.sg). You can also visit the preventive drug education portal at CNB's website [www.cnb.gov.sg](http://www.cnb.gov.sg) for more information on drug and inhalant abuse.
- Please call the CNB hotline at 1800-325-6666 to report any cases of suspected drug and inhalant abuse.
- For anyone who wishes to seek help with addiction-related matters please call the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at 6732 6837.
- For more information on crime prevention, visit the SPF's website at [www.spf.gov.sg](http://www.spf.gov.sg), SPF Facebook or NCPC's website at [www.ncpc.org.sg](http://www.ncpc.org.sg). Please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000, or submit the information online at [www.police.gov.sg/iwitness](http://www.police.gov.sg/iwitness) to report matters on gangs, unlicensed money lending or crimes. Please dial '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you are aware

of any gang activities or anyone who wants to leave a gang, please advise him/her to seek assistance from the Secret Societies Branch at 6435 0000. You can also call the NCPC's X Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9-24-5664 (1800-X-AH-LONG) to report unlicensed money lending matters.

- For more information on scams, visit [www.scamalert.sg](http://www.scamalert.sg). You may also call the Anti-Scam Helpline at 1800-722-6688 to seek scam-related advice.

16 Thank you and happy holidays.

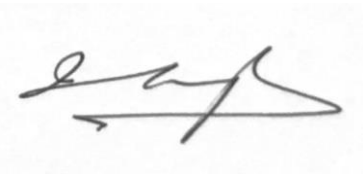
Yours faithfully,



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