

Prosecutor Probed into an Illicit On-line Sale of Medical Oximeters

The case stemmed from an investigation conducted by the Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau (MJIB) and Department of Health of New Taipei City into a Pharmacy, located at Zhonghe District, New Taipei City. The Pharmacy is run by Yang, seized selling medical oximeters without approval. The two agencies caught an illegal medical oximeter on the spot. It was then discovered the illicit medical oximeter was sold by Chiu's and Wu's on-line Boutique at Dashe District, Kaohsiung City. New Taipei District Prosecutors Office hereafter appointed Prosecutor Yu (余佳恩) to investigate into the matter. It is found that the on-line Boutique had unlawfully imported and sold medical oximeters without prior permission at the unit price of NT\$390 through Facebook Group since May 2021. Meanwhile, Yang sold those illegal medical oximeters at the unit price of NT\$900 through Facebook Group. Prosecutor Yu instructed the MJIB officers and Kaohsiung City Government's Department of Health officials to carry out the investigation, and searched the Pharmacy and the aforesaid persons' dwellings with warrants. The enforcement authorities seized sales and purchase data, shipment information, website data, social media chat logs, and related records. It is discovered the on-line Boutique had sold as many as 753 medical oximeters without prior approval.

After the interrogation, Prosecutor Yu found the Defendants were strongly suspected of violating Article 62 of Medical Devices Act, and released Defendant Wu, Defendant Chiu and Defendant Yang on bail of NT\$100 thousand, NT\$60 thousand, NT\$50 thousand respectively.

During an outbreak of Covid-19, demand for medical oximeters to measure blood oxygen levels is escalating. The oximeter is a kind of medical device, subject to the Medical Devices Act. New Taipei District Prosecutors Office reminds the public to be aware of the source of oximeters before purchase. To ensure the safety and effectiveness of detection, never purchase oximeters that have not been registered and approved.