

# **THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

## **GUIDANCE NOTE 7.4.2**

*[Formerly GN 2013, para 2; Council's Guidance Note 1 of 2004]*

### **PROVIDING WELFARE ASSISTANCE TO CLIENTS**

1. On 5 October 2004, Council gave guidance to two law practices that enquired on the extent of welfare assistance they could give their clients whilst they pursued their legal claims. The law practices wished to lend moneys to their clients who were foreign workers on special passes to help them meet their daily living expenses.
2. Council advised the practices that lending moneys to clients will put a lawyer in a position of personal conflict of interest as the lawyer will have a creditor/debtor relationship with his client and the debt owed in this case would be repaid only if the client's case was either settled or paid. Council also advised the practices that if the matter was pending litigation, allegations of maintenance and champerty could be made against the practice.
3. Law practices should direct clients who may require welfare assistance to appropriate organisations that can provide such assistance to them.

Date: 31 January 2019

**THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**