Hong Kong Housing Authority 'Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2024' (HOS 2024) (including Sale of Recovered Flats from Estates under Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS))

Arrangements on Appointment of Solicitors

The purchasers of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2024 (HOS) flats:

Please note that the solicitors appointed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) are acting for the HA only and will not be able to protect the purchaser's interest.

- (1) The purchaser is advised to engage a separate firm of solicitors of his/ her choice to act for him/ her in relation to the transaction. However, the contents of the conveyancing documents will be determined by the HA. If the purchaser appoints a separate firm of solicitors to act for him/her in relation to the transaction, that firm of solicitors will be able to give independent advice, such as alienation restrictions, stamp duties, etc. to the purchaser at every stage of the purchase. The purchasers have to pay the legal costs and expenses of their own solicitors. Purchasers are required to notify the HA the name and contact details of their appointed solicitors within reasonable time before completion or other time to be specified by the HA.
- (2) If the purchaser does not appoint a separate firm of solicitors of his/ her choice to act for him/ her in his/ her completion of the purchase, he/ she will execute the assignment at the office of the solicitors of the HA. The solicitors of the HA will only interpret the contents of the assignment to him/ her and attest his/ her execution, and will not act as the purchaser's solicitors in the transaction, and will not advise the purchaser on the Agreement for Sale and Purchase (ASP) or any other matters in connection with the transaction. In such cases, the legal costs to be paid to the HA's appointed solicitors and other legal costs and expenses for executing the transaction shall be borne by the purchaser (not by the HA). The solicitors of the HA, not acting for the purchaser in the transaction, will not be able to protect the purchaser's interest.
- (3) Solicitor fee
 - If the purchaser appoints a separate firm of solicitors of his/ her choice to act for him/ her in relation to the sale and purchase of the flat, he/ she is only required to pay the legal costs and expense of his/ her solicitors.
 - If the purchaser does not appoint a separate firm of solicitors of his/ her choice to act for him/ her in his/ her completion of the purchase, he/ she will execute the assignment at the office of the solicitors of the HA. Under such circumstances, the purchaser (not by the HA) is required to pay the legal costs of the HA's appointed solicitors and other legal costs and expenses. The purchaser should contact the HA's appointed solicitors for the details of the solicitor fee, other legal costs and expenses, and has to pay accordingly.

The purchasers of recovered TPS flats (For Green Form Applicants only)

If the price of the recovered TPS flat is <u>over one million dollars</u>, purchasers <u>must</u> appoint a separate firm of solicitors of their choice to act for them in relation to the transaction. Such firm of solicitors should not be the firm of solicitors appointed by the HA for the concerned flat.

If the price of the recovered TPS flat <u>does not exceed one million dollars</u>, purchasers may either appoint a separate firm of solicitors of their choice to act for them in relation to the transaction; or consult with the HA's appointed solicitors to act for them in relation to the transaction.

- (1) If the purchaser appoints a separate firm of solicitors to act for them in relation to the transaction, that firm of solicitors will be able to give independent advice, such as alienation restrictions, rights and obligations, stamp duties, etc. to the purchasers at every stage of the purchase. The purchasers have to pay the legal costs and expenses of their own solicitors. Purchasers are required to notify the HA the name and contact details of their appointed solicitors within reasonable time before completion or other time to be specified by the HA.
- (2) If the price of the flat does not exceed one million dollars, the purchasers may consult with the HA's appointed solicitors to act for them in relation to the transaction. The solicitors will be acting jointly for the HA and the purchasers under such arrangement. If a conflict of interest arises between the HA and the purchasers, the HA's appointed solicitors may not be able to protect the purchasers' interests. For this type of joint representation cases, the purchasers are required to pay the solicitor fee plus all and other legal costs and expenses of the solicitors for completion of the sale and purchase. The purchaser should contact the HA's appointed solicitors for the details of the solicitor fee, other legal costs and expenses.
- (3) Solicitor fee
 - If the price of the recovered TPS flat is over one million dollars, the purchaser must appoint a separate firm of solicitors of his/her choice to act for him/her in relation to the transaction, he/ she has to pay the legal costs and expenses of his/ her solicitors.
 - If the price of the recovered TPS flat does not exceed one million dollars, the purchaser may consult with the HA's appointed solicitors to act for him/her in relation to the transaction. The HA's appointed solicitors for the flat will be acting jointly for the HA and the purchasers under such arrangement. For this type of joint representation cases, the purchaser is required to pay the solicitor fee plus all other legal costs and expenses for completion of the sale and purchase. The purchaser should contact the HA's appointed solicitors for the details of the solicitor fee, other legal costs and expenses, and has to pay accordingly.