

Duo admit fraud over airline staff discount air tickets

11 March 2016

A former cargo sales executive of an airline company and his friend today (Friday) admitted at the Kowloon City Magistracy an ICAC charge of conspiracy to defraud the company in relation to the purchase of two staff discount round-trip air tickets to Taipei and Seoul.

Chu Kai-fai, 27, a former cargo sales executive of Hong Kong Airlines Limited (HKA), and Chu Man-wa, 28, an account clerk, who were charged on Wednesday, pleaded guilty to a joint charge of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law.

Principal Magistrate Mr Peter Law Tak-chuen remanded Chu Kai-fai in custody of the Correctional Services Department until March 24 this year for sentence, pending community service order and probation reports.

Chu Man-wa had her sentencing adjourned until March 23 this year. She was granted cash bail of \$5,000 and ordered not to leave Hong Kong.

The case arose from a corruption complaint. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above offence of conspiracy to defraud.

The court heard that at the material time, Chu Kai-fai was a cargo sales executive of HKA, while Chu Man-wa was his friend.

HKA allowed its employees to buy air tickets of HKA and its sister company, Hong Kong Express Airways Limited (HKEA), at a staff discount rate ranging from 80 per cent to 95.5 per cent. Each employee could nominate eight direct family members, including siblings, and a friend to enjoy this benefit.

In 2014, Chu Kai-fai nominated Chu Man-wa to enjoy staff discount tickets by naming the latter as his sibling, namely elder sister.

To support the application, Chu Kai-fai uploaded his own birth certificate and a forged birth certificate of Chu Man-wa onto the computer system of HKA, with the names of their parents identical.

Believing that the birth certificates uploaded by Chu Kai-fai were genuine, and Chu Kai-fai and Chu Man-wa were siblings, the administration officer of HKA approved the application.

The court heard that on February 27 and April 22, 2014, Chu Kai-fai purchased Chu Man-wa a round-trip ticket to Taipei and another round-trip ticket to Seoul at \$440 and \$600 respectively.

Chu Kai-fai and Chu Man-wa were subsequently arrested by ICAC officers. When interviewed under caution, Chu Kai-fai admitted having nominated Chu Man-wa, who had no blood relation with him as an eligible person to enjoy staff discount tickets.

As Chu Kai-fai had already promised to nominate another friend to enjoy the benefit, Chu Man-wa suggested that Chu Kai-fai should nominate her as his sister, and falsify her birth certificate in order to show that their parents were identical.

When interviewed under caution by ICAC officers, Chu Man-wa admitted that she had sent an image of her birth certificate to Chu Kai-fai for editing.

Based on the discount rate of 80 per cent, Chu Man-wa had unlawfully benefited a total sum of \$4,160 by purchasing the two discount air tickets, the court was told.

HKA had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by ICAC officer Eastman Tang.

二人承認詐騙航空公司折扣機票候判

2016年3月11日

一名航空公司前貨運銷售主任及其友人，就購買兩張分別來回台北及首爾的員工折扣機票，串謀詐騙該航空公司，被廉署起訴。被告今日(星期五)在九龍城裁判法院承認控罪。

朱啓暉，二十七歲，香港航空有限公司(香港航空)前貨運銷售主任，及朱敏華，二十八歲，會計文員，同承認於周三被控的一項串謀詐騙罪名，違反普通法。

主任裁判官羅德泉將朱啓暉暫時還押懲教署看管，並押後判刑至本年三月二十四日，以待被告的社會服務令及感化報告。

朱敏華的判刑則押後至本年三月二十三日。她獲准以現金五千元保釋外出，並受命不得離開香港。

廉署早前接獲貪污投訴，調查後揭發上述串謀詐騙罪行。

案情透露，朱啓暉於案發時為香港航空貨運銷售主任，而朱敏華則是朱啓暉的朋友。

香港航空准許其員工以百分之八十至九十五點五的折扣率購買該公司及其姊妹公司香港快運航空有限公司(香港快運航空)的機票。每名員工可提名八名直系家屬，包括其兄弟姊妹，以及一名朋友享受此項福利。

朱啓暉於二〇一四年以朱敏華乃其親姊而提名她享受員工折扣機票。

朱啓暉將自己的出生證明書和朱敏華的偽造出生證明書，上載到香港航空的電腦系統以支持其申請。該兩份出生證明書顯示，二人的父母名稱相同。

香港航空行政主任相信朱啓暉上載的出生證明書為真確，以及朱啓暉與朱敏華為姐弟，遂批准了有關申請。

案情透露，朱啓暉於二〇一四年二月二十七日及四月二十二日，分別為朱敏華以四百四十元及六百元購買一張台北來回機票及另一張首爾來回機票。

朱啓暉及朱敏華其後被廉署拘捕。朱啓暉在警誡下接受廉署人員問話時，承認曾經提名與他並無血緣關係的朱敏華作為可享受員工折扣機票的合資格人士。

由於朱啓暉已答應提名另一名友人享受有關福利，朱敏華遂建議朱啓暉將她提名作為其親姊及偽造其出生證明書，以顯示二人的父母相同。

朱敏華在警誡下接受廉署人員問話時，承認她曾發送其出生證明書的影像予朱啓暉作剪輯之用。

以百分之八十的折扣率計算，朱敏華因購買該兩張折扣機票而不合法地獲取四千一百六十元利益。

香港航空在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由廉署人員鄧展超代表出庭。

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