

A News Report

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*Mother Neglecting Her Daughter, 6
by Gabrielle Choi*

Hong Kong - On 3rd May, 2018 (Sunday), the police received a report from a citizen about a girl being left alone at home for days.

The incident took place in a flat in Choi Ming Estate. Sally Wong Yan Yan, a student of Sunshine Kindergarten, had been left alone at home for days. Her neighbour found out and called the police right away. The police, fire service and ambulance service, were sent to the scene to attend to the reported case.

They found that the house was full of rubbish with disgusting smell. When the police reached the flat, Sally was weak and tired. They rushed her to the hospital straight away.

Doctors who examined her said that she was in a critical condition. She was seriously dehydrated, malnourished and underweight. Her life would be at risk if the neighbour had arrived a day later. The doctors are giving medical treatment to her.

The police were looking into the case. They contacted Sally's uncle and interviewed her neighbour.

Mr Wong, Sally's uncle, said, 'Sally's father died of lung cancer last month. Her mother needed to take care of Sally by herself. The mum needed to pay for the rent and other expenses. Therefore, she always lingered in casinos with hopes of winning a fortune. From time to time, she left her daughter at home.'

Sally's neighbour, Mr. Yip, said that the flat had been smelly in the past few days.

The police are searching for Sally's mother. The flat has been barricaded for police's detailed search for evidence. The house will be tidied up by cleaners after the search.

Barrister Gordon Yuen Fung said, 'Child neglect is a very serious crime. The maximum penalty is 5 years in prison.'

'Neglect is a form of child abuse,' stated lawmaker Mandy Fung Hoi Kai, 'I hope that parents take responsibility of their children and give them the care and attention they need.'

Citizens with information of the girl or the mother are encouraged to contact the police investigation team at 35796235 to help with the investigation.