



Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice Press Release

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Swift Assistance from Our Institution in Clarifying Drug Reaction Case Handled by Taiwan's Shilin District Prosecutors Office

The Shilin District Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation into the suspected benzodiazepines' reaction case involving young children at a Xizhi kindergarten, which immediately drew public attention. Given the recent panic caused by a similar incident involving 36 young children from a kindergarten in Banqiao District, New Taipei City, who were suspected to have exhibited reactions to Phenobarbital, the occurrence at the Xizhi kindergarten has further raised concerns. To uphold social order and ensure the safety of early childhood education, the Shilin District Prosecutors' Office actively conducted the investigation and sought professional assistance.

To quickly clarify the situation, the Shilin District Prosecutors Office swiftly collaborated with our institution and submitted hair samples from the children, along with the prescription records of

the administered medication, to our Forensic Toxicology Division on June 19, 2023, for identification. Although this case falls outside our routine forensic duties, we prioritized the concern for public safety, and our Director, Kuan-Ren Hou, personally coordinated support and instructed the Forensic Toxicology Division to expedite the processing.

The team from our Forensic Toxicology Division responded promptly and fully dedicated themselves to the identification process. After conducting extensive research and testing on benzodiazepines and barbiturates for hair analysis, we completed the identification report on June 21, 2023.

The Shilin District Chief Prosecutor highly praised our quick response and efficient work, expressing gratitude to all the team members involved for completing the identification report within the shortest time possible. The case was concluded on June 28, 2023, thanks to the cooperative spirit within our institution, which allowed for the swift completion of the hair analysis, helping to clarify the situation and reassure the families and the general public.