

## Ex-Certis security officer jailed 10 weeks for molesting 2 female subordinates



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SINGAPORE - A Certis security officer abused his position as a team leader and molested two of his female subordinates at their workplace.

The 55-year-old Singaporean was sentenced to 10 weeks' jail on Monday (Oct 25) after he pleaded guilty to two counts of molestation.

Details about his identity and their workplace cannot be disclosed due to a gag order to protect the women's identities.

Responding to queries from The Straits Times, Certis said the man was suspended from all duties immediately after his arrest on March 27 last year, and he resigned the following month.

The court heard that while he was working as a team leader, he frequently passed comments about women's bodies and looks. He also cracked "dirty" jokes relating to sex and female private parts.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Kwang Jia Min said: "Even though the female team members working under the accused felt disgusted at those comments and jokes, they did not dare to openly show their displeasure as the accused was their supervisor."

Some time in February last year, one of the victims, 23, was at work when the man smacked her buttocks. She felt traumatised after the incident, the court heard.



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The man reoffended the following month when he molested another woman, 22, at their workplace by stroking her thigh.

The DPP said: "(She) felt shocked and uncomfortable with the accused touching her. As it was (her) first day in the accused's team and the accused was her supervisor, (she) was scared, did not know what to do, and did not dare to openly push the accused's hand away."

The older victim finally told their deputy team leader in a casual conversation about what the man had done.

The deputy team leader alerted the woman's other seniors, while the younger woman separately made a police report.

In its statement on Monday, Certis said: "Counselling was offered to the victims and they were monitored closely to help them cope with the incident. We will continue to practise an open-door policy and provide a safe and secure environment for all our officers.

"We also communicate and remind our officers regularly on the importance of integrity and mutual respect, while upholding the highest values and standards of the organisation.

"Certis has a zero-tolerance policy for any criminal acts and takes a serious view of this incident... We will not hesitate to take necessary action on any employee who fails to meet the required standard."

For each count of molestation, an offender can be jailed for up to two years and fined or caned.

The offender in this case cannot be caned as he is more than 50 years old.

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