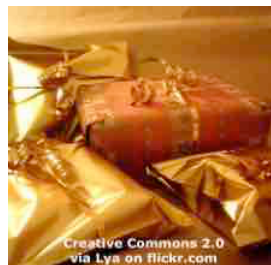


CEO loses case to get back gifts from ex-girlfriend

14th September 2026



A man in Singapore has lost a court case to get back hundreds of thousands of dollars of gifts that he had showered on his ex-girlfriend. The man, Mr X, is a company CEO. His ex, Ms Y, was a flight attendant. The two met during

a flight in 2019. Mr X became besotted with Ms Y and started giving her lavish gifts to win her affection. He said he also gave her cash "loans". The court said the value of the presents and additional loans amounted to \$369,200. The presiding judge said that Mr X had "displayed a consistent pattern of showering [Ms Y] with lavish gifts". The judge said there had been no expectation that Ms Y would have to repay any of the money or return the gifts.

The couple were involved in a romantic relationship for just over a year. They split up after Mr X suspected Ms Y of having an affair. He argued in court that his ex-partner had requested interest-free loans to repay her credit cards and life insurance premiums, to pay for overseas trips, and to seek the advice of a feng shui master to assess her apartment. However, there was no documentary evidence to prove this. Ms Y said all gifts were "made out of love and affection". The judge concluded that Mr X had been "smitten" by Ms Y. He added: "Unfortunately, when their relationship ended on a sour note, [Mr X] became embittered and was determined to extract a price from [Ms Y]."

Sources: yahoo.com / cnn.com / bbc.com

Writing

Home-made cakes and sweets are the best gifts. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

court case / gifts / CEO / flight attendant / cash / loans / besotted / pattern / money / couple / romantic / relationship / having an affair / insurance / feng shui / affection

True / False

- 1) A man in Singapore gave his ex-girlfriend an expensive shower. T / F
- 2) The man's ex-girlfriend was an airline pilot. T / F
- 3) The man and the woman met on an airplane. T / F
- 4) The judge suggested the woman could return the gifts in the future. T / F
- 5) The couple dated for just over a year. T / F
- 6) The man said the woman asked for money for a feng shui assessment. T / F
- 7) The man produced documentary evidence, but it was not enough. T / F
- 8) The relationship ended on a sour note. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. get back | a. regular payments |
| 2. showered | b. steady |
| 3. besotted | c. fondness |
| 4. consistent | d. lavished |
| 5. lavish | e. demonstrate |
| 6. romantic | f. luxurious |
| 7. premiums | g. retrieve |
| 8. prove | h. resentful |
| 9. affection | i. in love |
| 10. embittered | j. intimate |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Is it better to give or receive?
- c) What's the best gift you've ever been given?
- d) Is it OK to keep the gifts from ex-partners?
- e) What is the culture of gift-giving in your country?
- f) Is money or a present the best gift?
- g) Should Ms Y have returned the gifts?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr X?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. A man in Singapore has lost | a. romantic relationship |
| 2. The two met | b. and additional loans |
| 3. started giving her lavish gifts to | c. to prove this |
| 4. the value of the presents | d. win her affection |
| 5. Mr X had displayed | e. premiums |
| 6. The couple were involved in a | f. a consistent pattern |
| 7. Mr X suspected Ms Y of | g. a court case |
| 8. life insurance | h. note |
| 9. there was no documentary evidence | i. during a flight in 2019 |
| 10. their relationship ended on a sour | j. having an affair |

Discussion – Student B

- How often do you receive gifts?
- What gifts do you give to other people?
- What are the best kinds of gifts?
- Are gifts that you make yourself best?
- What really expensive gift would you like to receive?
- How important is it to give gifts?
- Have you ever received a gift you didn't like?
- What advice do you have for Mr X?

Spelling

- gifts that he had srheowde on his ex-girlfriend
- Mr X became tsetdbeo with Ms Y
- lvshai gifts
- win her econffita
- Mr X had displayed a osntceinst pattern
- there had been no eaioteptcnx
- The couple were nveodvli in a romantic relationship
- life insurance mrmpiuets
- no tconuyamder evidence to prove this
- The judge concluded that Mr X had been nstietm by Ms Y
- Mr X became erdtieemtb
- enemreditd to extract a price from Ms Y

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. j	7. a	8. e	9. c	10. h

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is the man's job?
2.	Where did the couple in the article meet?
3.	What did the man want to win?
4.	What did the man say he gave the woman besides gifts?
5.	Who said the man had showered the woman with lavish gifts?
6.	For how long did the couple date?
7.	What did the man suspect the woman of having?
8.	What did the woman want a feng shui master to assess?
9.	What did the man not have to prove his case?
10.	On what kind of note did the relationship end?

Speaking – Lavish Gifts

Rank these with your partner. Put the best gifts at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Expensive watch | • Designer handbag |
| • Fine jewellery | • Diamond bracelet |
| • Luxury hotel stay | • 5-star restaurant meal |
| • Helicopter tour | • Made-to-order shoes |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.