

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OF 2021

1. It is hereby notified for general information that the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions will be amended as follows with effect from 2 June 2021 (for 1(c) to (g)) and 15 June 2021 (for 1(a) and (b)): -

(a) The existing subparagraphs 11(3), (4), (5), (7) and (8) will be deleted and replaced with the following subparagraphs:

[Paragraphs 11\(3\), \(4\), \(5\), \(7\) and \(8\)](#)

(b) The existing subparagraph 61A(2) will be deleted and replaced with the following sub-paragraph:

[Paragraph 61A\(2\)](#)

(c) The existing subparagraphs 161A(2), (4), (5), (7) and (8) will be deleted and replaced with the following subparagraphs:

[Paragraphs 161A\(2\), \(4\), \(5\), \(7\) and \(8\)](#)

(d) The existing subparagraph 161A(13) will be deleted:

[Paragraph 161A\(13\)](#)

(e) The existing subparagraphs 161A(14) and (15) will be deleted:

[Paragraphs 161A\(14\) and \(15\)](#)

(f) The existing Form 266A will be deleted and replaced with the following new form:

[Form 266A](#)

(g) The existing Appendix D will be deleted:

[Appendix D](#)

2. The amendments in 1(a) provide for the inclusion of the Law Society Mediation Scheme as an option to parties under Court Ordered Private Mediation and the consequential amendments to remove singular references to the Singapore Mediation Centre.
3. The amendments in 1(b) are to clarify the scope of powers and duties of a deputy/deputies to which Rule 176A of the Family Justice Rules apply.
4. The amendments in 1(c), (d) and (f) and are to reflect the extended use of Video Conferencing in all Courtrooms in the Supreme Court building and the broadened scope of such video conferencing.
5. The deletions in 1(e) and (g) provide that all references to fees charged by the Supreme Court building are removed and to reflect that the use of Video Conferencing Equipment and Mobile Infocomm Technology Facilities in the Supreme Court building are provided at no cost to the parties.

Dated this 2nd day of June 2021



KENNETH YAP
REGISTRAR
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

Part V – Alternate Dispute Resolution

11. Mediation and/or Counselling Directed by Court

...

- (3) The Registrar or the Judge may order that parties in proceedings which meet the criteria attend private mediation conducted, at parties' election, by the Singapore Mediation Centre or the Law Society Mediation Scheme (collectively referred to as "Assigned Private Mediator(s)"), unless parties have agreed upon a mediator ("Agreed Private Mediator"). The Registrar or the Judge may also make any orders necessary, including any orders relating to the choice of mediator (if parties are unable to agree) and pertaining to the payment of the mediation and its related fees.
- (4) For mediations conducted by the Assigned Private Mediator(s), the parties and/or counsel shall provide the Registrar or the Judge with the necessary information for the Assigned Private Mediator(s) to contact them to arrange for the mediation. The Registrar or the Judge will give directions and timelines for parties to agree on a mediation date and to exchange case information, documents and mediation briefs. The Registrar or the Judge will fix a return date for parties and/or counsel to update the Court on the outcome of the private mediation.
- (5) For mediations conducted by the Agreed Private Mediators, the parties or their counsel shall inform the Registrar or the Judge of the identity of their Agreed Private Mediator, the management of the mediation and the agreed date for mediation. The Registrar or Judge may make any order necessary for the timely and efficacious disposal of the case, including fixing return dates for the parties or their counsel to update the court, and/or re-directing the case to the Assigned Private Mediator(s).

...

- (7) For nullity, divorce and judicial separation proceedings in which interim judgment or judgment of judicial separation has been granted, if the dispute is resolved at private mediation, the parties and/or counsel may file the draft consent order for the Court's approval in accordance with the requirements in Paragraph 116 of these Practice Directions. Alternatively, the parties may request to attend before the Court for the privately mediated agreement to be recorded as a consent order by the Registrar or the Judge upon confirmation of the terms by the parties and/or counsel.
- (8) Where interim judgment or judgment of judicial separation has not been granted, if the dispute is resolved at private mediation, the parties and/or counsel shall inform the Court accordingly on the return date given by the Registrar or the Judge pursuant to sub-paragraphs (4) or (5) above, as the case may be, and directions will be given for the setting down of the divorce on an uncontested basis on an expedited basis.

61A. Uncontested applications for certain specified matters

...

- (2) The specified matters to which Rule 176A of the Family Justice Rules apply are the appointment of a Deputy/Deputies to make decisions on P's behalf in relation to one or more of the following matters:

...

- (r) To apply to and/or communicate with and/or make agreements with any Government agency or agency or entity designated by the Government to administer the matter in question on behalf of P to the extent to which P would have been able to if P had mental capacity, and to receive monies paid to P by any government agency or agency or entity designated by the government in relation to the aforesaid;

...

- (x) Provided that the total amount received is no more than \$80,000, to do one or more of the following:
- (i) ...
 - (ii) To surrender, claim, receive and/or administer P's insurance monies;
- ...

- (y) To receive up to \$60,000 of P's monies from the Central Provident Fund Board in addition to monies paid to P on a regular basis by the Central Provident Fund Board.

...

161A. Technology Facilities in Supreme Court Building

Use of the Video Conference Facilities and the Mobile Infocomm Technology Facilities

...

- (2) The Video Conference (“VC”) Facilities and the Mobile Infocomm Technology Facilities (“MIT facilities”) may, at the discretion of the Registrar, be used:
 - (a) for the hearing of any matter, whether before a Judge or Registrar, in open Court or in Chambers; or
 - (b) for any other dispute resolution process.

...

Applications to use the Video Conferencing Facilities and Usage of Additional Equipment

- (4) A request to use the VC facilities for the hearing of any matter before a Judge or Registrar must be made by filing a Request through the Electronic Filing Service at least 14 working days before the hearing at which those facilities are to be used and Form 266A of Appendix A of these Practice Directions in Portable Document Format (PDF) must be annexed to the Request electronic form.
- (5) An application to use the VC facilities for any other dispute resolution process must be made by submitting Form 266A of Appendix A of these Practice Directions to the Registrar through the relevant person-in-charge at the organisation at which the dispute resolution process is carried out at least 14 working days before the dispute resolution proceedings at which it is to be used.

...

- (7) Upon a successful request to use the VC facilities,
 - (a) prior arrangements for equipment testing have to be made at least 5 working days before the first day fixed for the hearing, in order to ensure equipment compatibility;
 - (b) applicants will be informed of the number for video conferencing during the testing session; and

(c) as a matter of general practice, the remote site will connect to the number and it is the responsibility of the party requesting the VC to coordinate the booking and calling in from the remote site.

(8) Any person who desires to use audio-visual and computer equipment additional to those provided in a Courtroom will be asked to provide details of such equipment. The applicant must also be prepared to have the equipment available for testing with the audio-visual system of the Courtroom at least 3 working days before the first day fixed for the hearing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide equipment that is compatible with the audio-visual system of the Courtroom.

...

Applications to use the Mobile Infocomm Technology Facilities

...

(13) [deleted]

Fees

(14) [deleted]

(15) [deleted]

FORM 266A

Para 161A

**Application to Use the Video Conference Facilities or
Mobile Infocomm Technology Facilities (MIT facilities)**

Date:

To: 1. The Registrar
Supreme Court
1 Supreme Court Lane
Singapore 178879

2. The Registrar
Family Justice Courts
3 Havelock Square
Singapore 059725

[In cases involving alternative dispute resolution, to provide the information set out below:

Through: Please specify the relevant person-in-charge at the organisation at which the dispute resolution process is carried out, such as Registrar, Singapore International Arbitration Centre or the Executive Director, Singapore Mediation Centre.]

Part I

Application by : Law Firm Individual

Name of applicant/law firm : _____

Name of lawyer/secretary-in-charge
of matter : _____

Address : _____

E-mail address : _____

Telephone and mobile numbers : _____

Case number : _____

Name of Parties : _____

Date(s) of hearing : From _____ to _____

Part II

Application for the use of: VC Facilities MIT facilities
In respect of : Court Proceedings Alternative Dispute Resolution

(a) Date(s) and time when use of VC Facilities is required:

Dates of scheduled use: Total No. of days:

Start date and time (1st scheduled day of use):

End date and time (last scheduled day of use):

Facility (Tick box)	
Video-Conferencing system (State the country, state and city)	

(b) Date(s) and time when use of MIT facilities are required:

Dates of scheduled use: Total No. of days:

Start date and time (1st scheduled day of use):

End date and time (last scheduled day of use):

Facility (Tick box)	
1. Interactive Display Board with HD display	
(a) 65" HD touch-screen display	
(b) Internet access via browser	
(c) Recording of voices and actions (e.g., annotations on image or on google maps)	
(d) Multi-format disc player (which allows the playback of DVD-audio, DVD-video, DVD-RAM, DVD-R, CD, CD-R/RW and SVCD media)	
2. Audio Visual Projection Facility	
3. Other Audio Visual Equipment	
(a) Multi-format disc player (which allows the playback of DVD-Audio, DVD-Video, DVD-RAM and DVD-R)	
(b) Visualiser	
(c) Others (please list)**	

** Subject to availability of such equipment

We undertake to compensate the Supreme Court and the Family Justice Courts for all damage caused to the equipment, furniture or fittings in connection with the hearing.

*[The Plaintiff/Defendant or the solicitors for the
Plaintiff/Defendant as the case may be]*

APPENDIX D

[deleted]