

IN THE STATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
STATE COURTS PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021
AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2025

It is hereby notified for general information that amendments have been made to Part II and Part XIX of the State Courts Practice Directions 2021. The amendments are summarised below:

- (1) amendments to Practice Direction 16 on Submissions and examination by leading and junior assisting counsel;
- (2) introduction of new Practice Direction 16A on Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel in Registrar's Appeals; and
- (3) amendments to Practice Direction 127 on Application.

2 The amendments will take effect on 1 October 2025 and will be reflected at <https://epd2021-statecourts.judiciary.gov.sg/> from 1 October 2025.

3 Please find attached a document reflecting the marked-up amendments to the Practice Directions 2021.

Dated this 24th day of September 2025.



EDWIN SAN
REGISTRAR
STATE COURTS

State Courts Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 4 of 2025)

PART II: GENERAL MATTERS

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16. Submissions and examination by leading and **junior** assisting counsel

- (1) In the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel at a hearing, whether in open Court or in chambers, ~~more than one counsel (including junior assisting counsel) may undertake part of the oral advocacy including the making of submissions and the questioning of witnesses may be carried out by one counsel for each party only.~~
- (1A) Lead counsel are strongly encouraged to give junior assisting counsel more opportunities for oral advocacy at a hearing. This contributes to their development as advocates and promotes renewal of the Bar. Lead counsel should apprise the client of the potential benefits of allocating certain advocacy tasks to junior assisting counsel, including reduced legal costs and increased focus by lead counsel on the main advocacy tasks, and to therefore obtain instructions to conduct the proceedings in accordance with paragraph (2).
- (2) ~~If counsel have divided up their work such that it is necessary or desirable that submissions on different issues be made or certain portions of the examination, cross-examination or re-examination be conducted by different counsel, an application should be made to Court at the commencement of the trial or hearing for permission to do so.~~ If a party would like certain portions of the submissions, or examination, cross-examination or re-examination of witnesses to be conducted by different counsel in the same case, lead counsel should inform the Court as early as is practicable at a Case Conference, and in any event by no later than the commencement of the trial or hearing. The following information should be provided to the Court ~~for the purposes of the application:~~
 - (a) the issues on which each counsel will be making submissions; and/or
 - (b) the witnesses to be examined, cross-examined or re-examined by each counsel, or the portions of their evidence for which each counsel will conduct the examination, cross-examination or re-examination.

- (3) If ~~permission has been granted~~ the Court has been informed of the allocation of oral advocacy tasks in accordance with paragraph (2), ~~unless otherwise directed by the Court,~~
- (a) counsel should ensure that ~~each~~ he or she confines himself or herself to the issues or portions of evidence ~~in respect of which permission was granted as allocated to him or her~~ and that there is no overlap in the issues or the examination being dealt with by different counsel for the same party. ~~Further,;~~
and
- (b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions or portions thereof that have been made by another counsel for the same party or examine, cross-examine or re-examine witnesses on portions of their evidence dealt with by another counsel for the same party.
- (4) ~~If the permission of the Court is not sought in accordance with paragraph (2), only one counsel will be allowed to make submissions or conduct examination for a party throughout the hearing.~~ Nothing in this Practice Direction detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions, or having conduct of any portion of the examination, cross-examination or re-examination of witnesses, are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.
- (5) This Practice Direction shall apply to both civil and criminal proceedings, ~~but does not apply to any proceedings for which specific directions are provided in Practice Direction 16A.~~

16A. Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel in Registrar's Appeals

- (1) Notwithstanding Practice Direction 16, in the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel in the conduct of a Registrar's Appeal, junior assisting counsel are ordinarily expected to make part of the submissions at any oral hearing.
- (2) Lead counsel is to inform the Court at the start of the oral hearing which issues would be addressed by the lead counsel or the junior assisting counsel.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the Court,
 - (a) counsel should ensure that he or she confines himself or herself to the issues to be addressed and that there is no overlap in the issues being dealt with by different counsel for the same party; and
 - (b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions that have been made by another counsel for the same party.
- (4) Nothing in this Practice Direction detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.

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PART XIX: PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMUNITY COURTS AND TRIBUNALS CLUSTER

127. Application

(1) The following apply to Tribunal / Simplified POHA Proceedings (as defined in Practice Direction 2(3)), with the necessary modifications:

(a) Parts:

- (i) I (Introduction);
- (ii) II (General Matters), except Practice Direction 10 (Hearing of urgent applications during weekends and public holidays);
- (iii) VI (Injunctions and Certain Other Applications) (where the Rules of Court apply to Tribunal / Simplified POHA Proceedings);
- (iv) VII (Remote Hearings);
- (v) XIII (Enforcement Matters); and
- (vi) XIX (Proceedings before the Community Courts and Tribunals Cluster);
and

(b) Practice Directions:

- (i) 16 (Submissions and examination by leading and junior assisting counsel);
- (ii) 25 (Identification numbers and name to be stated in cause papers);~~and~~
- (iii) 26 (Citation of case numbers / new Court forum prefix);
- ~~(iii)~~iv) 33 (Access to case file, inspection and taking copies of documents and conducting searches);
- ~~(i)~~v) 46 (Adjournment or vacation of hearings);

- (vi) 50 (Filing of Distinct Applications in Separate Summonses);
- (vii) 58 (Witnesses);
- (viii) 59 (Giving of evidence by person outside Singapore through live video, live television or live audio link in any proceedings (other than proceedings in a criminal matter));
- (~~viii~~ix) 66 (Request for Court interpreters); and
- (ix) 71 (Application for Court records for civil matters).

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