

IN THE STATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
PRACTICE DIRECTIONS
AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF 2019

It is hereby notified for general information that, with effect from 13 April 2019, the State Courts Practice Directions will be amended by deleting the existing Practice Direction 118 (*Use of electronic and other devices*) and replacing it with the following practice direction:

New Practice Direction 118

2 The amendments to Practice Direction 118 permit court users to use notebooks, tablets, mobile phones and other electronic devices to communicate with external parties in all hearings in open Court unless the Court expressly disallows this, and provided that such use does not in any way disrupt or trivialise the proceedings.

3. These amendments are intended to bring Practice Direction 118 in line with the corresponding paragraph in the Supreme Court Practice Directions as amended by the Supreme Court Practice Directions Amendment No. 1 of 2019.

Dated this 4th day of April 2019.



JENNIFER MARIE
REGISTRAR
STATE COURTS

118. Use of electronic and other devices

- (1) In order to maintain the dignity of Court proceedings in the State Courts, court users are strictly prohibited from making any video and/or image recording in all hearings and sessions in open Court or in chambers.
- (2) Additionally, audio recording during a hearing or session is strictly prohibited without prior approval of the Judge or Registrar hearing the matter or the person presiding over the session.
- (3) Court users are permitted to use notebooks, tablets, mobile phones and other electronic devices for the following purposes provided that such use does not in any way disrupt or trivialise the proceedings:
 - (a) to take notes of evidence during all hearings or sessions and for any other purpose pertaining to the proceedings; or
 - (b) to communicate with external parties during all hearings in open Court unless the Judge hearing the matter or the person presiding over the session expressly disallows this.
- (4) This Practice Direction shall apply to both civil and criminal proceedings in the State Courts (including the Small Claims Tribunals).
- (5) For the avoidance of doubt, this Practice Direction shall also apply to all alternative dispute resolution and counselling sessions conducted in the State Courts.
- (6) The attention of court users is also drawn to section 5 of the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act 2016 (Act No. 19 of 2016).