

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2024

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OF 2026

1. It is notified for general information that amendments have been made to Parts 13, 21 and 26 of the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions 2024. The amendments are summarised below:
 - (a) Amendments to paragraph 113 on Absence from Court on medical grounds; and
 - (b) Amendments to paragraph 191 on Limits on size and number of documents submitted using the iFAMS; and
 - (c) Amendments to paragraph 230 on Applications and Appeals (related to Youth Court proceedings).
2. The amendments will take effect on 1 June 2026 and will be reflected at <https://epd2024-familyjusticecourts.judiciary.gov.sg> from 1 June 2026.
3. Please find attached a document reflecting the marked-up amendments to the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions 2024.

Dated this 18th day of May 2026



KENNETH YAP YEW CHOH
REGISTRAR
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

PART 13
COURT HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE

13A: Conduct of Court Proceedings and Hearings-Related Matters

113. Absence from Court on medical grounds

- (1) If:
- (a) any party to proceedings;
 - (b) any witness;
 - (c) any solicitor; or
 - (d) any officer or other person appointed by the Public Prosecutor to act as a Deputy Public Prosecutor or an Assistant Public Prosecutor in carrying out any of the duties of the Public Prosecutor under the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 or under any other written law,

is required to attend Court (including any hearing conducted by way of live video or live television link, and whether in court or in chambers) and wishes to absent himself or herself from Court on medical grounds, he or she must provide tender or cause to be tendered to the Court ~~with~~ an original medical certificate. ~~The medical certificate must be in the proper form and contain the information and particulars required by subparagraphs (2) to (5). The medical certificate may be tendered in person or by any electronic means which the Court may permit.~~

- ~~(2) — A medical certificate issued by a Government hospital or clinic may be in the pre-printed form produced by the Ministry of Health, a sample of which may be found at <https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/family> under “Resources / Guides” (“the sample form”). A medical certificate issued by a restructured hospital or specialist centre may also be in a pre-printed form similar to the sample form. The pre-printed medical certificate must:~~
- ~~(a) — be completely and properly filled in;~~
 - ~~(b) — contain the name of the medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate;~~
 - ~~(c) — state the name of the hospital or clinic in which the medical practitioner practises;~~

- ~~(d) indicate that the person to whom the certificate is issued is unfit to attend Court, and specify the date(s) on which he or she is unfit to attend Court;~~
- ~~(e) be signed in full by the medical practitioner (and not merely initialled); and~~
- ~~(f) be authenticated by a rubber stamp showing the medical practitioner's full name and designation in the hospital or clinic, as the case may be.~~

~~(2) Any medical certificate tendered to the Court under sub-paragraph (1) must:~~

- ~~(a) state the name and Medical Council or Dental Council Registration Number of the medical practitioner or dental practitioner who issued the certificate;~~
- ~~(b) state the name of the hospital or clinic at which the certificate was issued;~~
- ~~(c) state the contact details of the medical practitioner or dental practitioner and also of the hospital or clinic;~~
- ~~(d) be signed by the medical practitioner or dental practitioner or, if the medical certificate is electronically generated, state that no signature is required;~~
- ~~(e) contain a statement to the effect that the person in respect of whom the certificate is issued is medically unfit to attend Court, and specify the date(s) on which the person is medically unfit to attend Court;~~
- ~~(f) contain a diagnosis of the person in respect of whom the certificate is issued accompanied by a brief description of the symptom(s) and condition(s) forming the basis for the statement in sub-paragraph (2)(e) above (unless the diagnosis cannot or should not normally be disclosed); and~~
- ~~(g) bear the date on which the certificate was issued and, where this date differs from the date of consultation, clearly disclose the difference.~~

~~(3) If a medical certificate is not in the sample form, the medical certificate should:~~

- ~~(a) be addressed to "Registrar, Family Justice Courts" (and not "whoever it may concern");~~
- ~~(b) identify clearly the medical practitioner who issued the certificate;~~
- ~~(c) state the name of the hospital or clinic at which it was issued;~~
- ~~(d) be signed in full by the medical practitioner (and not merely initialled);~~

- ~~(e) — be authenticated by a rubber stamp showing the medical practitioner’s full name and designation;~~
- ~~(f) — contain a diagnosis of the patient concerned (unless the diagnosis cannot or should not normally be disclosed);~~
- ~~(g) — contain a statement to the effect that the person to whom the certificate is issued is medically unfit to attend Court, and specify the date(s) on which he or she is unfit to attend Court; and~~
- ~~(h) — bear the date on which the medical certificate was written and, where this differs from the date of consultation, this fact must be disclosed and clearly stated.~~

~~(4)(3)~~ If any ~~portion of the~~ information ~~set out specified~~ in sub-paragraph ~~(3)(2)~~ is not ~~found stated~~ in the medical certificate itself, such information ~~may~~ must be included in a memorandum ~~which should be~~ attached to the medical certificate. This memorandum must:

- ~~(a) identify clearly~~ state the name and Medical Council or Dental Council Registration number of the medical practitioner or dental practitioner who issued the ~~memorandum certificate~~;
- ~~(b) contain~~ state the name of the hospital or clinic at which ~~it~~ the certificate was issued; and
- ~~(c) be signed in full by the medical practitioner (and not merely initialled); and or dental practitioner or, if the memorandum is electronically generated, state that no signature is required.~~
- ~~(d) — be authenticated by a rubber stamp showing the medical practitioner’s full name and designation.~~

~~(5)(4)~~ All information and details in any medical certificate or memorandum must be clearly and legibly printed.

~~(6)(5)~~ If ~~the directions~~ any requirement set out in sub-paragraphs (2) to ~~(5)(4)~~ are is not complied with, the Court may reject the medical certificate and decline to excuse the attendance of the person ~~to~~ in respect of whom the medical certificate was issued. The Court may then take any action it deems appropriate.

(6) The Court may, if it deems fit, take steps to contact the medical practitioner or dental practitioner who appears to have issued a medical certificate for the purpose of authenticating the medical certificate and, where necessary, the person in respect of

whom the medical certificate is issued must provide such assistance to the Court as may be necessary to facilitate such authentication.

- (7) This paragraph applies to all proceedings in the Family Justice Courts, ~~whether in open court, in Court or in chambers.~~

PART 21
ELECTRONIC FILING SERVICES

21C: Electronic Filing under the iFAMS

191. Limits on size and number of documents submitted using the iFAMS

(1) The following limits currently apply to the filing of documents using the iFAMS:

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(b) The size of a single transmission cannot exceed ~~4~~20 mega-bytes.

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PART 26 YOUTH COURTS

230. Application and Appeals

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Appeals

- (2) ~~Skeletal arguments must be filed at least 10 days before the hearing. Hard copies of the bundles of authorities and skeletal arguments shall be tendered to the Registry at the same time as they are filed. Subject to any written law prescribing timelines for the filing of written submissions in appeals from Youth Courts, and any Court directions:~~
 - (a) The Appellant's written submissions, together with any bundle of authorities, must be filed by 4.00 p.m., at least 21 days before the day of the hearing.
 - (b) The Respondent's written submissions, together with any bundle of authorities, must be filed by 4.00 p.m., at least 10 days before the day of the hearing.
- (3) Sub-paragraph (2) does not affect any directions issued before 1 June 2026, fixing or informing parties of the timelines for the filing of written submissions in any appeal from a Youth Court, unless otherwise directed by the Court.
- (4) Parties in appeals from Youth Courts should ensure that 2 hard copies each of any written submissions and bundle of authorities are tendered to the Registry, unless parties are informed that more than 2 hard copies are to be tendered.
- (5) The hard copies of the written submissions and bundles of authorities must be tendered to the Registry at the same time as they are filed.