

**IN THE STATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**  
**STATE COURTS PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021**  
**AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2026**

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

(1) amendments to Practice Direction 14 on Absence from Court on medical grounds.

2 The amendments will take effect on 1 June 2026 and will be reflected at <https://epd2021-statecourts.judiciary.gov.sg/> from 1 June 2026.

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

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.



EDWIN SAN  
REGISTRAR  
STATE COURTS

## State Courts Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 4 of 2026)

### PART II: GENERAL MATTERS

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#### 14. Absence from Court on medical grounds

(1) If —

- (a) any party to proceedings;
- (b) any witness;
- (c) any counsel; 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 open court or in chambers~~) and wishes to absent himself ~~or herself~~ from Court on medical grounds, he ~~or she~~ must tender or cause to be tendered to the Court an original medical certificate. ~~Where a~~ The medical certificate ~~cannot~~ may be tendered in person, ~~it may be tendered~~ or by any electronic means which the Court may permit.

(2) Any medical certificate tendered to the Court under 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 ~~it~~ 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 diagnosis of the patient concerned accompanied by a brief description~~

~~of the symptom(s) and condition(s) forming the basis for the statement in subparagraph (2)(f) below (unless the diagnosis cannot or should not normally be disclosed);~~

- (fe) contain a statement to the effect that the person ~~to~~ 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;
  - (gf) contain a diagnosis of the patient concerned accompanied by a brief description of the symptom(s) and condition(s) forming the basis for the statement in subparagraph (2)(e) above (unless the diagnosis cannot or should not normally be disclosed); and
  - (g) bear the date on which ~~it~~ the certificate was ~~written~~ issued and, where this date differs from the date of consultation, ~~this must be~~ clearly ~~disclosed~~ disclose the difference; ~~and~~.
  - (h) ~~be the original document issued by the medical practitioner, if it was issued by the medical practitioner in hard copy.~~
- (3) If any information specified in paragraph (2) is not stated in the medical certificate itself, such information must be included in a memorandum attached to the medical certificate. ~~This memorandum 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 it was issued; and~~
  - (c) ~~be signed by the medical practitioner or dental practitioner or, if the memorandum is electronically generated, state that no signature is required.~~
- (4) All information and details in any medical certificate or memorandum must be clearly and legibly printed.
- (5) If any requirement set out in paragraphs (2) to (4) 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 ~~party tendering the~~ ~~medical certificate~~ 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 Practice Direction shall apply to both civil and criminal proceedings in the State Courts.