

IN THE STATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
STATE COURTS PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021
AMENDMENT NO. 5 OF 2026

It is hereby notified for general information that amendments have been made to Part XVII, Appendix A1 and Appendix A2 of the State Courts Practice Directions 2021. The amendments are summarised below:

- (1) introduction of a new Practice Direction 110B on Emplacement of sexual offence trials on the Specialist Sexual Offences List;
- (2) introduction of a new Practice Direction 110C on Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist for sexual offences trials on the Specialist Sexual Offences List;
- (3) introduction of a new Form 29B (Sexual Offences Emplacement Checklist) to Appendix A1;
- (4) introduction of a new Form 29C (Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist) to Appendix A1; and
- (5) amendments to Form 13 (Defence / Defence and Counterclaim / Defence to Counterclaim / Further Pleadings) of Appendix A2.

2 The amendments will take effect on 15 July 2026 and will be reflected at <https://epd2021-statecourts.judiciary.gov.sg/> from 15 July 2026.

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

Dated this 1st day of July 2026.



EDWIN SAN
REGISTRAR
STATE COURTS

State Courts Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 5 of 2026)

PART XVII: CRIMINAL MATTERS

110B. Emplacement of sexual offence trials on the Specialist Sexual Offences List

- (1) This Practice Direction applies to all sexual offences in the State Courts proceeding to trial.
- (2) The Prosecution must file a Sexual Offences Emplacement Checklist (“Emplacement Checklist”) in Form 29B of Appendix A1 to these Practice Directions where it considers that any of the criteria therein are met, or that there is any other reason for the case to be considered for emplacement on the Specialist Sexual Offences List (“SSO List”). The Defence may also file an Emplacement Checklist where it considers that the case should be considered for emplacement on the SSO List.
- (3) If the Prosecution is of the view that none of the criteria in the Emplacement Checklist are met, it need not file an Emplacement Checklist but must inform the Court accordingly at the next hearing.
- (4) Unless otherwise directed by the Court, the Emplacement Checklist must be filed at least 3 days before the third Criminal Case Disclosure Conference or the Pre-Trial Conference where trial dates are to be given.
- (5) Whether a case is to be emplaced on the SSO List lies solely within the Court’s discretion.
- (6) The Emplacement Checklist is meant for case management purposes only and parties are not to seek to admit it as evidence at trial. The fact that a case is emplaced on the SSO List is not a finding by the Court on any of the matters stated in the Emplacement Checklist.

110C. Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist for sexual offences trials on the Specialist Sexual Offences List

- (1) This Practice Direction applies to all sexual offence trials emplaced on the SSO List, pursuant to Practice Direction 110B of these Practice Directions.
- (2) The Prosecution and the Defence must file a checklist (called the “Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist”) in Form 29C of Appendix A1 to these Practice Directions. Where the accused person is legally represented, a single Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist must be jointly completed and filed by the parties (“Joint Checklist”), unless otherwise directed by the Court.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the Court, the Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklists or the Joint Checklist (as the case may be) must be filed at least 7 days before the date of the Judge Case Conference.
- (4) Unless otherwise directed by the Court, where the accused person is not legally represented, the Registry will arrange, at least 2 weeks before the date mentioned at paragraph (3) above, for a copy of the Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklist to be sent to, or collected by, the accused person.
- (5) The Sexual Offences Case Conference Checklists or the Joint Checklist (as the case may be) are meant for case management purposes only and parties are not to seek to admit them as evidence at trial.
- (6) To avoid doubt, where this Practice Direction applies, the requirements under Practice Direction 110A of these Practice Directions do not apply.

Appendix A1

Form 29B

SEXUAL OFFENCES EMPLACEMENT CHECKLIST

Case Name:

Case Number:

(A) Characteristics of the Complainant

- At the time of the offence –
 - below the age of 16
 - intoxicated
 - suffering from a diagnosed learning/mental disability

Please provide brief details if any of these factors apply:

- At the time of filing this checklist –
 - suffering from a diagnosed psychiatric illness that impacts evidence-giving

Please provide brief details if this factor applies:

(B) Characteristics of the Accused Person

- At the time of the offence –
 - below the age of 16
 - intoxicated
 - suffering from a diagnosed learning/mental disability

Please provide brief details if any of these factors apply:

- At the time of filing this checklist –
 - suffering from a diagnosed psychiatric illness that impacts evidence-giving

Please provide brief details if this factor applies:

(C) Circumstances of the Offence(s)

- The offence involves –
 - a penetrative act
 - the causing of or attempt to cause death, hurt, wrongful restraint or fear of instant death, instant hurt or instant wrongful restraint
 - the abuse of a position of trust/responsibility or an office of employment
 - the use of deception

Please provide brief details if any of these factors apply:

(D) Other Considerations

- The case involves –
 - a significant lapse of time between the commission of the offence and the filing of the police report
 - expert evidence that is likely to be contested
 - multiple complainants

Please provide brief details if any of these factors apply:

Any other reason why the case should be considered for emplacement on the Specialist Sexual Offences List:

Additional Comments:

Submitted by:

Date of Submission:

Form 29C

SEXUAL OFFENCES CASE CONFERENCE CHECKLIST

Case Name:

Case Number:

PART ONE: GENERAL

S/N	Items	Status (*delete where inapplicable)
1	Charge(s)	
	Proceeded Charge(s)	Total number of proceeded charge(s):
		Brief description of each proceeded charge:
Stood Down Charge(s)	Total number of stood-down charge(s):	
2	Agreed Facts	
	Statement of Agreed Facts (“SOAF”)	Will a SOAF be used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>Please state when the SOAF will be signed and filed:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please explain why a SOAF will not be used:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Parties are still discussing the issue: <i>Please indicate whether a draft SOAF is ready and when parties will be able to confirm whether a SOAF will be used</i>

3	Witnesses (parties to complete <u>Annex A</u>)	
	Prosecution Witnesses	Number of Prosecution witnesses:
		Number of Prosecution witnesses whose evidence is undisputed and can be admitted by conditioned statements (i.e. witness' attendance can be dispensed with):
		Number of Prosecution witnesses who will be required to give evidence at trial:
		Likely length of Prosecution's case: days
	Defence Witnesses	Number of Defence witnesses:
		Number of Defence witnesses whose evidence is undisputed and can be admitted by conditioned statements (i.e. witness' attendance can be dispensed with):
Number of Defence witnesses who will be required to give evidence at trial:		
	Likely length of Defence's case: days	
4	Expert Witnesses	
	Prosecution Expert Witnesses	Number of Prosecution experts:
		Areas on which each Prosecution expert will give evidence:

		<p>Will an expert report(s) be used: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, has a copy of the expert report been served on the Defence: Y/N*</p> <p>If a copy of the expert report has not been served on the Defence, when will this done:</p>	
	<p>Defence Expert Witnesses</p>	<p>Number of Defence experts:</p>	
			<p>Areas on which each Defence expert will give evidence:</p>
			<p>Will an expert report(s) be used: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, has a copy of the expert report been served on the Prosecution: Y/N*</p> <p>If a copy of the expert report has not been served on the Prosecution, when will this done:</p>

5	Ancillary Hearings	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Written Statements</p>	<p>Does the Prosecution intend to admit statements of the accused person(s) as part of its case: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, which statements does the Prosecution intend to admit as part of its case:</p> <p>Statements which the Defence is objecting to the admission of:</p> <p>Nature of challenge to admissibility (the Defence is to briefly explain the grounds on which the admissibility of the statement is being challenged – for example, whether it is a threat, inducement, promise or oppression that is alleged):</p> <p>Estimated number of days required for the ancillary hearing:</p> <p>Statements which the Defence is challenging on the basis of accuracy:</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Video Recorded Interviews (“VRIs”)</p>	<p>Does the Prosecution intend to admit VRIs of the accused person(s) as part of its case: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, which VRIs of the accused person(s) does the Prosecution intend to admit as part of its case:</p> <p>Which portions of the VRI(s) will be played in Court:</p>

		<p>How much time is required to play the VRI(s):</p> <p>Transcripts of the VRI(s) have been prepared?: Y/N*</p> <p>Accuracy of the transcripts of the VRI(s) have been agreed to by parties: Y/N*</p> <p>If the accuracy of the transcripts of the VRI(s) have not been agreed to by parties, the portions of the transcripts that are being challenged on the basis of accuracy:</p> <p>VRIs which the Defence is objecting to the admission of:</p> <p>Nature of challenge to admissibility - (the Defence is to briefly explain the grounds on which the admissibility of the statement is being challenged – for example, whether it is a threat, inducement, promise or oppression that is alleged):</p> <p>Estimated number of days required for the ancillary hearing:</p>
	<p>Hearsay Evidence under s 32 of the Evidence Act</p>	<p>Does the Prosecution/Defence* intend to admit hearsay evidence? Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, have the requirements under regulation 2 of the CPC (Notice Requirements to Admit Hearsay Evidence) Regulations 2012 been complied with: Y/N*</p> <p>If the notice requirements have not been complied with, please explain why:</p>

		<p>Is the opposing party objecting to the admissibility of the hearsay evidence and is there a need for an ancillary hearing to determine the admissibility of hearsay evidence under s 32 of the Evidence Act: Y/N*</p>
	<p>Other evidence</p>	<p>Does the Prosecution/Defence intend to object to the admissibility of any other evidence at the trial: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, please identify each piece of evidence, the admissibility of which is being challenged:</p> <p>Nature of challenge to admissibility (the objecting party is to briefly explain the grounds on which the admissibility of the evidence is being challenged):</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Applications to Court</p>	
	<p>Intended Applications by Parties</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Shielding measures under s 281A of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (“CPC”)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redaction and/or non-identification orders under ss 8(2A) and (3) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969 (“SCJA”) / ss 7(2A) and (3) of the State Courts Act 1970 (“SCA”) or variation of such orders previously made</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In private proceedings under s 281B of the CPC or s 8(2) of the SCJA /s 7(2) of the SCA</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joint trial of charges or accused persons under ss 143 to 145 of the CPC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Permission to ask complainant questions and/or adduce evidence about the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> complainant’s physical appearance <input type="checkbox"/> complainant’s sexual behaviour with persons

		<p>under regulation 3 of the Evidence (Restrictions on Questions and Evidence in Criminal Proceedings) Rules 2018</p> <p>When will each of the above applications be made, and by whom:</p> <p>Which of the above applications, if any, will be contested and by whom:</p> <p>For each application that will be contested, the party opposing the application is to state the nature/premise of the challenge(s):</p>
7	Miscellaneous	
	Technology Facilities and Administrative Support	<p>Do parties require Technology Facilities for the hearing: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, please specify the Technology Facilities required:</p>
		<p>Do parties require other administrative support for the hearing: Y/N*</p> <p>If yes, please specify the administrative support required:</p>
8	Scheduling & Management of Witnesses at Trial (parties to complete <u>Annex B</u>)	
	Consolidated Witness Schedule	<p>Unless otherwise directed by the Court, two weeks prior to trial, parties are to tender a consolidated witness schedule in the form set out in Annex B.</p>

PART TWO: LIST OF ISSUES

[Prior to the case conference, and where the accused person is represented by counsel, parties are to confer on the factual and legal issues that are likely to arise at trial. Parties should be concise and identify the key issues, rather than setting out detailed sub-issues. Where the accused person is self-represented, sections I to III below need not be completed. Instead, each party should set out a list of the issues which they say will arise in the trial.]

I. Elements of the Charge that are not in Dispute

- 1.
- 2.

II. Agreed List of Issues in Dispute

Factual Issues

- 1.
- 2.

Legal Issues

- 1.
- 2.

III. Non-Agreed List of Issues in Dispute

Additional Issues According to the Prosecution

- 1.
- 2.

Additional Issues According to the Defence

- 1.
- 2.

Annex A: List of Witnesses

Prosecution's List of Witnesses

S/N	Name	Role	Estimated Duration of Evidence-in-Chief	Estimated Duration of Cross-Examination	Interpretation / Communication / Support Needs*
1.					
2.					
3.					

Defence's List of Witnesses

S/N	Name	Role	Estimated Duration of Evidence-in-Chief	Estimated Duration of Cross-Examination	Interpretation / Communication / Support Needs*
1.					
2.					
3.					

*** Communication needs include: whether the witness requires visual aids or breaks while testifying etc. Support needs include the Witness Support Programme.**

Annex B: Consolidated Witness Schedule

** Parties are to list the witnesses in order of appearance & indicate how long each witness' evidence is expected to take*

S/N	Name	Role	Use of Conditioned Statement (Y/N)	Interpretation / Communication / Support Needs*	Date on which witness is likely to give evidence	Estimated Duration of Evidence-in-Chief	Estimated Duration of Cross-Examination
Prosecution Witnesses							
1.							
2.							
3.							
Defence Witnesses							
1.							
2.							
3.							

*** Communication needs include: whether the witness requires visual aids or breaks while testifying etc. Support needs include the Witness Support Programme.**

Appendix A2

Form 13

13.

O. 6, r. 7(3),
r. 8(2), r. 9(2),
r. 10(2)

DEFENCE / DEFENCE AND COUNTERCLAIM
/ DEFENCE TO COUNTERCLAIM /
FURTHER PLEADINGS*

(Title as in action)

General Points to note when drafting the pleading:

1. Any matter, for example, performance, release, any relevant statute of limitation, fraud or any fact showing illegality, must be stated specifically –
 - (a) Which is alleged to make any aspect of the opposing party's pleading not maintainable;
 - (b) Which, if not specifically stated, might take the opposing party by surprise; or
 - (c) Which raises issues of fact not arising out of the opposing party's pleading.

2. The following matters must be pleaded –
 - (a) Material facts;
 - (b) Particulars of any misrepresentation, fraud, breach of trust, wilful deceit or undue influence; and
 - (c) Particulars of facts where there is allegation as to the condition of the mind of any person, whether any disorder or disability of mind, or any malice, fraudulent intention or other condition of mind except knowledge.

3. The following should not be pleaded –
 - (a) Evidence by which material facts are to be proved;
 - (b) Points of law; and
 - (c) Legal arguments and submissions.

(a) Defence / Defence and Counterclaim*

Defence/Defence to Counterclaim

1. ~~[Defence/defence to counterclaim is to be a paragraph by paragraph response to the whole statement of claim/counterclaim in this format:~~

~~(1): [Set out claimant's claim]~~

~~(1): [Set out defendant's defence]~~

~~(2): [Set out claimant's claim]~~

~~(2): [Set out defendant's defence]~~

[Reproduce each paragraph of the statement of claim, put the paragraph number in **bold** font and enclose each paragraph within a box as follows:

SOC (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the statement of claim.]

Respond to each paragraph of the statement of claim and designate each paragraph number as "DEF (insert paragraph number)" in **bold** font as follows. The Defendant may choose to group paragraphs together to respond to as a group:

DEF (1): [Set out defence.]

SOC (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the statement of claim.]

DEF (2): [Set out defence.]

Note: ~~The last~~ Every pleading must incorporate all previous pleadings.]

2. [State whether ~~defendant is contending~~ it is contended that the Court has no jurisdiction over the case.]
3. [State whether ~~defendant is contending~~ it is contended that the Court should not exercise jurisdiction over the case.]
4. [State whether the proceedings should be stayed or struck out or that the Court should grant some other relief.]
5. [State whether ~~defendant is admitting~~ the claim is admitted and ~~will immediately pay~~ whether the amount of the claim will be paid and/or ~~comply with~~ the non-monetary remedies sought in the statement of claim will be complied with.]
6. [State whether ~~defendant is admitting~~ the claim is admitted but ~~offering~~ an alternative remedy to that requested in the statement of claim is being offered.]
7. [~~Defendant must succinctly and precisely explain his or her~~ Any denial(s) and/or non-admission(s) as well as the essential facts ~~relied upon which he or she relies~~ must be succinctly and precisely explained.]
8. [~~Defendant must state specifically any matter, for example, performance, release, any relevant statute of limitation, fraud or any fact showing illegality~~

—

- ~~(a) Which he or she alleges makes any aspect of the statement of claim unmaintainable;~~
- ~~(b) Which, if not specifically stated, might take the claimant by surprise; or~~
- ~~(c) Which raises issues of fact not arising out of the statement of claim].~~

[Comply with the General Points.]

9. ~~[The following matters must be pleaded—~~

- ~~(a) Material facts;~~
- ~~(b) Particulars of any misrepresentation, fraud, breach of trust, wilful deceit or undue influence; and~~
- ~~(c) Particulars of facts where there is allegation as to the condition of the mind of any person, whether any disorder or disability of mind, or any malice, fraudulent intention or other condition of mind except knowledge].~~

10. ~~[The following should not be pleaded—~~

- ~~(a) Evidence by which material facts are to be proved;~~
- ~~(b) Points of law; and~~
- ~~(c) Legal arguments and submissions].~~

Counterclaim**

1. [State the jurisdictional basis upon which the counterclaim is founded and, if the basis is statutory, ~~to~~ make reference to the relevant source legislation or its provision(s).]
2. [Provide a succinct and precise account of the facts justifying the counterclaim in numbered paragraphs.]
3. [State the relief or remedy, including interest and costs, ~~which the defendant seeks sought~~ in numbered paragraphs.]
4. [State whether the interest claimed is contractual, the rate of interest and the period claimed.]
5. [State whether the costs claimed are contractual and the amount of costs claimed.]
6. [If this is an action for personal injuries, enclose a medical report and a statement of the special damages claimed. A claim for provisional damages must be pleaded.]
7. [Comply with the General Points.]

(b) Reply / Defence to Counterclaim / Reply and Defence to Counterclaim*

Reply^

1. In accordance with Order 6 rule 10 of the Rules of Court 2021, this Reply is filed pursuant to permission granted by the Court on [date].
2. [Additional Points to note when drafting the Reply:
 - (a) The Reply should state at the outset the specific paragraphs in the Defence for which approval of the Court has been given for the Reply and respond only to those paragraphs.
 - (b) If applicable, the Reply may state in the opening paragraphs that in relation to the paragraphs in the Defence for which no response is provided, the paragraphs are denied or not admitted.
 - (c) The Reply should reproduce all the paragraphs in the prior pleadings, i.e. the Statement of Claim and Defence (and Counterclaim), as may be applicable.]
3. [Reproduce each paragraph of the previous pleadings, put the paragraph number in **bold** font and enclose the paragraphs within a box as follows:

SOC (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the statement of claim.]

DEF (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the defence.]

Respond only to the specific paragraph(s) of the defence for which approval has been given and designate each paragraph number as “REP (insert paragraph number)” in **bold** font as follows. The Claimant may choose to group paragraphs in the Defence together to respond to as a group:

REP (1): [Set out reply.]

SOC (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the statement of claim.]

DEF (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the defence.]

REP (2): [Set out reply.]

Note: Every pleading must incorporate all previous pleadings.]

4. [Any denial(s) and/or non-admission(s) as well as the essential facts relied upon must be succinctly and precisely explained.]
5. [Comply with the General Points.]

Defence to Counterclaim**

1. [Reproduce each paragraph of all previous pleadings, including the Statement of Claim and Defence, put the paragraph number in **bold** font and enclose each paragraph within a box as follows. The Claimant may choose to group paragraphs in the Counterclaim together to respond to as a group:

CC (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the counterclaim.]

Respond to each paragraph of the counterclaim and designate each paragraph number as “DTCC (insert paragraph number)” in **bold** font as follows:

DTCC (1): [Set out defence to counterclaim.]

CC (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the counterclaim.]

DTCC (2): [Set out defence to counterclaim.]

Note: Every pleading must incorporate all previous pleadings.]

2. [State whether it is contended that the Court has no jurisdiction over the counterclaim.]
3. [State whether it is contended that the Court should not exercise jurisdiction over the counterclaim.]
4. [State whether the proceedings should be stayed or struck out or that the Court should grant some other relief.]
5. [State whether the counterclaim is admitted and whether the amount of the counterclaim will be paid and/or the non-monetary remedies sought in the counterclaim will be complied with.]
6. [State whether the counterclaim is admitted but an alternative remedy to that requested in the counterclaim is being offered.]
7. [Any denial(s) and/or non-admission(s) as well as the essential facts relied upon must be succinctly and precisely explained.]
8. [Comply with the General Points.]

(c) Reply to Defence to Counterclaim*

Reply to Defence to Counterclaim^

1. In accordance with Order 6 rule 10 of the Rules of Court 2021, this Reply to Defence to Counterclaim is filed pursuant to permission granted by the Court on [date].
2. [The Additional Points to note when drafting the Reply apply similarly here.]
3. [Reproduce each paragraph of all previous pleadings, including the Statement of Claim and Defence, put the paragraph number in **bold** font and enclose the paragraphs within a box as follows:

CC (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the counterclaim.]

DTCC (1): [Reproduce paragraph 1 of the defence to counterclaim.]

Respond to only the specific paragraph(s) of the defence to counterclaim for which approval has been given and designate each paragraph number as

“RDTCC (insert paragraph number)” in **bold** font as follows. The Counterclaimant may choose to group paragraphs in the Defence to Counterclaim together to respond to as a group:

RDTCC (1): [Set out reply to defence to counterclaim.]

CC (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the counterclaim.]

DTCC (2): [Reproduce paragraph 2 of the defence to counterclaim.]

RDTCC (2): [Set out reply to defence to counterclaim.]

Note: Every pleading must incorporate all previous pleadings.]

4. [Any denial(s) and/or non-admission(s) as well as the essential facts relied upon must be succinctly and precisely explained.]
5. [Comply with the General Points.]

Certification by [claimant/defendant] and solicitor*

I, [name of claimant/defendant]*, certify that all the statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I, [name of solicitor] certify that I have informed the [claimant/defendant]* of his or her obligation above.

*Signature of [claimant/defendant]**

Signature of solicitor

[Claimant/Defendant]*

Solicitor for the
[claimant/defendant]*

[Name]

[Name of solicitor]

*(*Modify/Delete as appropriate)*

*(**Use if appropriate)*

(^Before filing any pleadings beyond the Defence or Defence to Counterclaim, approval of the Court must be sought and obtained pursuant to Order 6 rule 10 of the Rules of Court 2021. To modify as appropriate for any pleadings beyond the Reply/Reply to Defence to Counterclaim)
