

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021**

**AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF 2026**

It is hereby notified that amendments have been made to Parts 11 and 22 and Appendix B of the Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021. The amendments are summarised below:

- (1) amendments to paragraph 89 on Absence from Court on medical grounds;
- (2) amendments to paragraph 167 on Written submissions for criminal appeals and other criminal matters before the Court of Appeal and the General Division; and
- (3) deletion of Form B15 on Specimen Government Medical Certificate.

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

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

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



JILL TAN  
REGISTRAR  
SUPREME COURT

# Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 2 of 2026)

## Part 11: Conduct of Court Proceedings

### 89. Absence from Court on medical grounds

(1) If:

(a) any party to proceedings;

(b) any witness;

(c) any ~~counsel~~ solicitor; or

(d) ~~the Public Prosecutor or the Public Prosecutor's deputy~~ 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 sub-paragraphs (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 Form B15 of Appendix B of these Practice Directions. A medical certificate issued by a restructured hospital or specialist centre may also be in a pre-printed form similar to the sample which appears at Form B15. 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 his 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 Form B15 of Appendix B of these Practice Directions, the medical certificate should:~~

~~(a) be addressed to “Registrar, Supreme Court” (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 hearings in the Supreme Court, ~~whether in open court or in chambers~~.

~~(8) This paragraph applies to both civil and criminal proceedings.~~

## Part 22: Other Matters Specific to Criminal Proceedings

### 167. Written submissions for criminal appeals and other criminal matters before the Court of Appeal and the General Division

(1) This paragraph applies to:

(a) criminal appeals and other criminal matters before the Court of Appeal; and

(b) magistrate's appeals and other criminal matters before the General Division, except where the General Division is exercising its original criminal jurisdiction.

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(7) Subject to any written law prescribing timelines for the filing of written submissions in criminal matters to which this paragraph applies, and any Court directions:

(a) For matters heard by the Court of Appeal: ~~the written submissions, together with any bundle of authorities, must be filed by 4.00 p.m., on the Monday 3 weeks before the start of the sitting period of the Court of Appeal within which the appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing before the Court of Appeal, regardless of the actual day (within that sitting period) on which that appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing before the Court of Appeal. (For example, if the sitting period of the Court of Appeal starts on Monday, 27 June 2022 and ends on Friday, 8 July 2022, all written submissions for appeals or matters listed before the Court of Appeal in that sitting must be filed by 4.00 p.m. on Monday, 6 June 2022.)~~

(i) ~~The appellant's (or applicant's) written submissions, together with any bundle of authorities, must be filed by 4.00 p.m., on the Monday 5 weeks before the start of the sitting period of the Court of Appeal within which the appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing, regardless of the actual day (within that sitting period) on which the appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing. (For example, if the sitting period of the Court of Appeal starts on Monday, 12 October 2026 and ends on Friday, 23 October 2026, the appellant's (or applicant's) written~~

submissions for an appeal or matter fixed in that sitting period must be filed by 4.00 p.m., on Monday, 7 September 2026.)

(ii) The respondent's written submissions, together with any bundle of authorities, must be filed by 4.00 p.m., on the Monday 3 weeks before the start of the sitting period of the Court of Appeal within which the appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing, regardless of the actual day (within that sitting period) on which the appeal or matter is scheduled for hearing. (For example, if the sitting period of the Court of Appeal starts on Monday, 12 October 2026 and ends on Friday, 23 October 2026, the respondent's written submissions for an appeal or matter fixed in that sitting period must be filed by 4.00 p.m., on Monday, 21 September 2026.)

(b) For matters heard by the General Division: ~~the 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.~~

(i) The appellant's (or applicant'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.

(ii) 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.

(7A) Sub-paragraph (7) 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 criminal matter to which this paragraph applies, unless otherwise directed by the Court.

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## Appendix B

### B15.

Para. ~~89(2), (3)~~

#### Specimen Government Medical Certificate

ORIGINAL MEDICAL CERTIFICATE		Serial No.
Name	NRIC No.	
<del>* This is to certify that the abovenamed is unfit for duty for a period of ..... ..... days from ..... to ..... inclusive.</del>		
Type of medical leave granted-		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalisation Leave Admitted on .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Sick Leave.	
Discharged on .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Maternity Leave Delivered on .....	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sterilisation Leave Operated on .....	
This Certificate is <del>*valid/not valid</del> for absence from Court attendance.		
No medical leave is necessary		
Diagnosis	Surgical Operation (if applicable)	
<del>* Fit for normal/light duty from .....to .....</del>		
<del>* The abovenamed patient attended my clinic at ..... am/pm and left at ..... am/pm.</del>		
Hospital/Clinic	Ward No.	Signature, Name (In BLOCK LETTERS) and Designation
	Date	
MD 965	<del>* Delete as necessary</del>	

[deleted]