IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2026

It is hereby notified that amendments have been made to Part 22 (Other Matters Specific to Criminal Proceedings) of the Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021. The amendments are summarised below:

(1) amendments to paragraph 168B on Discharging, changing or ceasing to act as counsel.

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

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

Dated this 17th day of November 2026.



JILL TAN
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 4 of 2026)

Part 22: Other Matters Specific to Criminal Proceedings

168B. Discharging, changing or ceasing to act as counsel

(1) This paragraph applies to~~:~~

~~(a)~~ all pending criminal matters before the Court of Appeal~~;~~ and

~~(b) all pending criminal matters before~~ the General Division ~~heard in the exercise of the General Division's appellate or revisionary criminal jurisdiction~~.

(2) For all pending matters to which this paragraph applies, permission of the Court of Appeal or the General Division (as the case may be) must be obtained if:

(a) a party wishes to change counsel by discharging counsel and appointing new counsel;

(b) a party wishes to discharge counsel and act in person; or

(c) counsel wishes to cease to act for a party.

…

(6) To avoid doubt, if the accused is involved in two or more pending criminal matters before the Court of Appeal, the General Division (including proceedings on a holding charge that is triable in the General Division), or the State Courts:

(a) a separate request for permission must be made in each criminal matter where permission is being requested for the discharge, change, or withdrawal of counsel;

(b) each request for permission is subject to the requirements under this paragraph of the Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021 or Practice Direction 110D of the State Courts Practice Directions 2021 (as the case may be); and

(c) each request for permission must state whether permission is being requested for the discharge, change or withdrawal of counsel in all the criminal matters or only in the criminal matter before the Court to which the request for permission is made.