

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2017

LAUNCH OF THE INTEGRATED FAMILY APPLICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IFAMS)

The Family Justice Courts (FJC) will be commencing the use of its new computerized system IFAMS on 10 July 2017. IFAMS will deal predominantly with applications under Part VII and Part VIII of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353) which relate to protection orders and maintenance, including enforcement of orders which are enforceable under the Women's Charter.

2. The Family Justice (Amendment) Rules 2017 and Practice Directions (Amendment No 2 of 2017) will come into effect on the same day. For the purposes of implementing IFAMS, two new divisions have been introduced in the Family Justice Rules, namely

- i) Division 68A- *Electronic filing service for certain specified proceedings and matters;* and
- ii) Division 69A- *Change of solicitor for certain specified proceedings and matters.*

3. Division 68A provides for the establishment of IFAMS and matters relating to the filing of applications using the system. All applications are to be made and court documents including Court Orders, Protection Orders, Summons, Warrants of Arrest and Warrants of Commitment will be issued using IFAMS.

4. Division 69A provides for simplified procedures to report change of solicitors. In particular, law firms and law corporations are to take note of the new filing requirements to file the Notice of Appointment, Notice of Change and Notice of Ceasing to Act when such an event takes place. Lawyers who are representing parties in proceedings (denoted by pre-fix MSS and SS) which are pending or ongoing in the Family Court can file the appropriate Notice of Appointment from 10 July 2017. The Director of Legal Aid or a solicitor assigned to act for an aided person under the Legal Aid and Advice Act (Cap 160) need not file the Notice of Appointment or Ceasing to act as the FJC is notified of the appointment or cessation of the assigned solicitor through the Grant or Cancellation of Aid that is filed with the registry under the Legal Aid and Advice Regulations.

5. Under the new rule 929F (5) and (6) of the Family Justice Rules (FJR), a party must file in IFAMS, before the commencement of the trial, the documents to be used at trial unless the court allows the documents to be tendered during the trial. For the purpose of this rule, the Mentions Court will determine whether a party should file the documents in IFAMS before the trial or otherwise.

6. Law firms, law corporations and authorised users will be able to make applications under IFAMS in accordance with the FJR and Practice Directions using their CorpPass whilst individuals can do so using their SingPass. Further information on CorpPass and SingPass can be found at www.corppass.gov.sg and www.singpass.gov.sg respectively. Authorised users and individual users should apply for a CorpPass or SingPass, as the case may be, if they currently have none.

7. For additional information, please refer to the FJC website at <https://www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg>.

Dated this 7 July 2017.



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