

**IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**PRACTICE DIRECTIONS**

**AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2022**

1. It is hereby notified for general information that the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions will be amended as follows with effect from 30 December 2022: -

(a) The existing sub-paragraph 11(1) will be deleted and replaced with the following sub-paragraph:

[Paragraph 11\(1\)](#)

(b) The existing paragraph 12 will be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[Paragraph 12](#)

(c) The existing Form 28 will be deleted and replaced with the following form:

[Form 28](#)

2. The amendments at 1(a) and (c) are to update the reference to the accurate sections of the Women's Charter 1961, pursuant to the Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 3 of 2022).

3. The amendments at 1(b) are to update the reference to the accurate section of the Women's Charter 1961, pursuant to the Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 3 of 2022), and to delete the explanation of the earlier phases of implementation.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022



KENNETH YAP  
REGISTRAR  
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

## **11. Mediation and/or Counselling Directed by Court**

- (1) In any proceedings before the Court, it may direct that parties attend mediation and/or counselling (pursuant to section ~~50~~ 139H, 139I or 139J of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353) or section 26(9) of the Family Justice Act 2014 (Act 27 of 2014)) to encourage parties to resolve the matter amicably and assist parties in reaching an agreement or to narrow the issues in contention. Sub-paragraphs (2) to (10) below apply to private mediations ordered by the Court, and sub-paragraphs (11) to (19) below apply to mediations and/or counselling conducted by the Court.

...

## 12. Mandatory Counselling & Mediation

- (1) Section ~~50(3A)~~ 139I(2) of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353) provides for mandatory counselling / mediation sessions at the Family Justice Courts. ~~The first phase, beginning in September 2011, was for divorcing parents with any child or children below 8 years of age. The second phase, involving divorcing parents with any child or children below 14 years of age, was implemented for cases filed from 1st July 2013. The final phase was implemented for cases filed from 1 October 2014 and extended to all divorcing parents with any child or children below 21 years of age.~~

...

- (10) Under section ~~50(3B)~~ 139I(3) of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353), the court may dispense with the attendance of the parties at mediation/counselling if it deems that it is not in the interest of the parties concerned to do so (e.g. where family violence has been committed or where Child Protection Services is involved in the case).

- (11) Counsel should advise his/her client of the consequences of ~~non-attendance~~ non-compliance under section ~~50(3D) and (3E)~~ 139I(5) of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353).

...

(REQUEST FOR SETTING DOWN FORM)

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
Divorce Writ No.

Between

[*Plaintiff's Name*] (ID No.    )    *Plaintiff*

And

[*Defendant's Name*] (ID No.    )    *Defendant*

REQUEST FOR SETTING DOWN ACTION FOR TRIAL

1. Request for Setting Down

- (a) I request that the Plaintiff/Defendant\* be at liberty to set down this action for trial.
- (b) The duration of the trial is estimated to be [*to state number of days*], and the matter will be contested/uncontested\*.

2. Mediation/Counselling Statement\*\*

- (a) I have informed my client about\*/I, the Plaintiff/Defendant\*, am aware of\* the options of mediation and counselling services at the court.
- (b) Parties do not have any child\*/have children\* who are \_\_\_\_ years old.
- (c) The Plaintiff and/or Defendant have:
  - (i) \*been notified to attend/are attending counselling/mediation at Child Focused Resolution Centre (the CFRC);
  - (ii) \*not been notified to attend counselling/mediation at the CFRC and ~~have child/children below 21 years old are persons prescribed under section 50(3A) of the Women's Charter as persons who are required to attend mediation/counselling;~~
  - (iii) \*completed counselling/mediation at the CFRC or ~~have been exempted from are not required to attend~~ counselling/mediation at the CFRC\*.

3. Particulars of Bankruptcy (if applicable)

[*State if either the Plaintiff or the Defendant is a bankrupt and if so, furnish details concerning the bankruptcy proceedings and whether the Official Assignee has been notified of the proceedings.*]

- (a) The Plaintiff\* and/or Defendant\* is a bankrupt.
- (b) Date of bankruptcy order and bankruptcy number [*please specify*].
- (c) The Official Assignee has been notified of these proceedings in writing on [*to state date*].

Signature:

Name of Party/Party's Solicitor\*:

Party Type (i.e. Plaintiff or Defendant):

Date:

\*Delete where inapplicable.

\*\*If there are any outstanding issues between the parties as at the date of the filing of this Request for Setting Down Action for Trial, this section must be completed by the party filing this Request for Setting Down Action for Trial.