



# Divorce in Singapore

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Processes at a Glance



This leaflet details typical divorce proceedings to help you better understand the processes involved. You and your spouse will go through the simplified track if (1) you both agree on the divorce; or (2) you both agree on the divorce and all ancillary matters such as the division of matrimonial assets, maintenance, and the custody, care and control and access of your child(ren). All other applications will go through the normal track.

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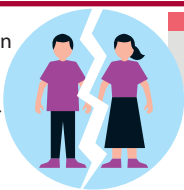
## STAGE ONE

### Step 1

## Ensure your marriage qualifies for divorce under Singapore Law

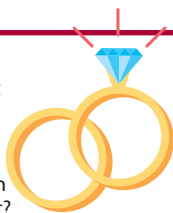
### Are you...

A Singaporean citizen or have lived in Singapore for the past 3 years?










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Married for at least 3 years or have obtained permission from court?



### Step 2

## Establish the facts to rely on in support of a divorce

	<a href="#">What does it mean?</a>	<a href="#">When can I file for divorce?</a>	<a href="#">What proof must I produce?</a>
<b>Adultery</b> 	If your spouse cheats on you by having sexual relations outside of marriage, and you find it intolerable to live with him/her.	You may file for divorce on this fact as soon as infidelity is known.	Evidence of the act (or intention of) including videos, photographs, SMS/email exchanges, etc.
<b>Unreasonable behaviour</b> 	If your spouse inflicts physical or mental abuse, or has behaved in a manner that you cannot be reasonably expected to live with him/her.	You may file for divorce on this fact as soon as an incident has taken place. 	Evidence of any act, active or passive; or failure to act, of your spouse. 
<b>Desertion</b> 	If your spouse has left you against your wishes and completely rejected the marital relationship.	You have to wait for 2 years. 	Evidence of deserting spouse's intention, and physical separation.
<b>Separation</b> 	If you and your spouse have been living separately and apart, or together but maintaining different households.	You have to wait for 3 years if your spouse agrees to the divorce (uncontested), or 4 years otherwise.	Evidence of the intention of both parties to be apart and end the right to companionship and marriage association.
<b>Mutual agreement</b>	If you and your spouse agree that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.	You may file for divorce as soon as you and your spouse agree that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.	A written agreement in the relevant Form of the Practice Directions.

### Step 3

## File for divorce

### MATRIMONIAL APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE ON A SIMPLIFIED TRACK

**You must...**

Agree with your spouse on the divorce before the filing of the Originating Application for Divorce.

Attend CPP by an MSF-funded Social Service Agency if you have children below 21 years old.

Submit divorce papers to the FJC at CrimsonLogic Service Bureau (address at back of booklet).

Serve the filed divorce papers on your spouse.

### MATRIMONIAL APPLICATION FOR DIVORCE ON A NORMAL TRACK

**You must...**

- ✓ Attend CPP by an MSF-funded Social Service Agency if you have children below 21 years old.
- ✓ Submit divorce papers to the FJC at CrimsonLogic Service Bureau (address at back of booklet).
- ✓ Serve the filed divorce papers on your spouse.

What happens next?

Spouse intends to contest?

Yes

Files (1) NTC within 14 days from date of service; and (2) reply (or a cross-application and reply) within 28 days from date of service.

If the respondent files a cross-application, the applicant has 28 days to file a reply to the cross-application.

Party to file request for a trial or hearing date on a contested basis

Case conference – judge may direct parties to attend mediation and counselling

Settled?

Yes

Proceed as Uncontested

No

File Affidavit of Evidence-in-Chief (Contested)

Contested Divorce Hearing

No

Files NTC to indicate non-contest

No NTC filed within timeline

Files NTC to contest but no reply filed within timeline

Party to file request for a hearing date on an uncontested basis

Uncontested Dissolution Hearing

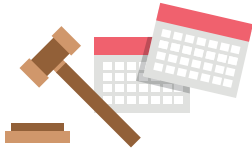
Interim Judgment



Ancillary Matters Process



Court hearing date will be given. The attendance of both parties is usually not required.



Court grants divorce



Interim Judgment

Ancillary Matters Process for simplified track



Extract Final Judgment

3 months after you have obtained Interim Judgment or the conclusion of the ancillary matters, if applicable.



Proceedings generally conclude after 4 months where there is agreement on divorce and ancillary matters.

Proceedings generally take up to 18 months to conclude



# STAGE TWO

The second stage of a contested divorce process deals with the division of matrimonial assets, maintenance of spouse and child(ren), as well as access, care and custody of the child(ren).

## ANCILLARY MATTERS PROCESS

After Interim Judgment has been granted\*  
*\*Mediation can take place before Interim Judgment is granted*

Are all ancillary matters agreed upon?

Yes	No
<p>File draft ancillary reliefs order signed by both parties</p> 	<p>Those with child(ren) below 21 years old must attend mandatory counselling and mediation at the FDR Division.</p>
<p>Court records Consent Order for ancillary matters</p> 	<p>File Ancillary Affidavits and Binding Summary of Positions</p> <p>Ancillary matters will be fixed for hearing</p> <p>Ancillary Matters Hearing</p>

Order of Court



Extract the Final Judgment 3 months after the court has granted the Interim Judgment, or when all the ancillary matters (if applicable) have been resolved, whichever is later.



## Understanding the guide

**Affidavit:** A formal written statement setting out the facts of your case.

**Ancillary matters:** Issues related to a divorce such as custody, care and control, and access of child(ren), maintenance of spouse and child(ren) or division of matrimonial assets.

**Applicant:** The spouse filing the matrimonial application for divorce

**Final Judgment:** A certificate made by the Registrar of the court in which the judgment was rendered, under the seal of said court.

**Consent Order:** A legal document that confirms the division of matrimonial assets, children and maintenance issues in a divorce.

**CPP:** Mandatory Co-Parenting Programme (formerly known as Mandatory Parenting Programme or MPP)

**Cross-application:** A statement presented by the respondent alleging facts in support of divorce based on the respondent's allegations

**FDR Division:** Family Dispute Resolution Division

**FJC:** Family Justice Courts

**Interim Judgment:** A provisional order for divorce that will be finalised after 3 months or after ancillary matters are resolved.

**Mediation:** Intervention in a dispute in order to resolve it through the agreement of the parties.

**MSF:** Ministry of Social and Family Development

**NTC:** Notice to contest

**Order of Court:** An instruction given by a court telling one what they can or cannot do.

**Permission of Court:** Permission obtained from a court to take action, which would not be allowed otherwise.

**Reply:** The statement presented by the respondent, rebutting the applicant's allegations.

**Reply to cross-application:** The statement presented by the applicant to rebut the respondent's allegations in the cross-application

**Respondent:** The spouse being served with the matrimonial application for divorce

**SOPO:** Binding Summary of Positions

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## To file your signed documents, visit:

### **CrimsonLogic Service Bureau**

1 Havelock Square  
Level 2 State Courts  
Singapore 059724  
Tel. No.: 6538 9507

### *Operating Hours*

Mon to Fri: 8:30am to 12:30pm,  
and 2pm to 5pm  
Sat: 8:30am to 12:30pm  
Sun and Public Holidays: Closed

### **Disclaimer**

- The flow charts represent the typical processes only. For each divorce case, depending on the facts and circumstances, the Judge has full discretion to direct the best possible course of action at any point in time.
- This publication is produced for general information only.
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