

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
PRACTICE DIRECTIONS
AMENDMENT NO. 1 OF 2020

1. It is hereby notified for general information that, the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions will be amended as follows with effect from 2nd April 2020: -

(a) The existing paragraph 161 will be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[Paragraph 161](#)

2. The amendments in 1(a) sets out the procedure relating to the use of video and telephone conferencing for hearings as directed by the Court.

Dated this 2nd day of April 2020



KENNETH YAP
REGISTRAR
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

161. Use of Video or Telephone Conferencing for Hearings

- (1) These directions apply to hearings to be conducted by video or telephone conferencing, as directed by the Court.

Guidelines for Video and Telephone Conferencing

- (2) A set of guidelines (“Guidelines”) shall govern the scope, use and procedure for the conduct of hearings by video or telephone conferencing. The Guidelines are found on <https://www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg> and counsel / parties are to abide by and familiarise themselves with the Guidelines for hearings conducted by video or telephone conferencing. The Guidelines may be amended where necessary.
- (3) Counsel / parties shall ensure that their equipment meets the required technical specifications and that they are familiar with the applicable platform listed in the Guidelines.

Directions for Hearing by Video and Telephone Conferencing

- (4) Where the Court directs that a hearing will be conducted by video or telephone conferencing, a Registrar’s Notice will be sent to the parties in advance of the scheduled hearing.

Conduct of Hearing

- (5) The hearing shall proceed as if it were a hearing conducted in person before the Court. Parties must observe all rules of etiquette applicable to Court hearings as prescribed in these Practice Directions and the Registrar’s Circulars.
- (6) If the hearing cannot be conducted, or if the Court decides that it is not expedient to deal with the matter by video or telephone conferencing, the Court may either direct that the hearing be adjourned for counsel and/or parties to attend Court personally, or issue any other direction regarding the resolution of the case.
- (7) The recording of Court proceedings in video, audio, or any other form is strictly prohibited and will be considered contempt of Court, with consequences of fine and/or imprisonment.
- (8) Counsel / parties are to ensure that the hearing is conducted in a private and secure location and not in a public area. No person should be attending at the video or telephone conferencing terminal if the Court is not aware of their presence. The identities of all persons present at the hearing should be disclosed to the Court at the start of the hearing, and permission is to be obtained for their attendance.

- (9) In the event of non-compliance with the required technical specifications, prescribed Court etiquette or the applicable Guidelines, the Court may adjourn the hearing and issue further directions to be complied with.
- (10) Any reference made to the record of proceedings in these Practice Directions shall refer to the Court's record of proceedings of the hearing conducted by video or telephone conferencing.
- (11) Any queries or requests for assistance pertaining to hearings by video or telephone conferencing may be sent by email to FJCourts_Family_Registry@fjcourts.gov.sg.