

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
PRACTICE DIRECTIONS
AMENDMENT NO. 3 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 20 July 2020: -

(a) The existing paragraph 24A(1) will be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[Paragraph 24A\(1\)](#)

(b) The following new paragraph 108A will be inserted after paragraph 108:

[Paragraph 108A](#)

(c) The existing paragraph 161A(6) will be deleted.

[Paragraph 161A\(6\)](#)

(d) The following paragraph 167(1) will be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[Paragraph 167\(1\)](#)

(e) The following new paragraph 167(1)(c) will be inserted after paragraph 167(1)(b):

[Paragraph 167\(1\)\(c\)](#)

(f) The existing paragraph 167(4) will be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[Paragraph 167\(4\)](#)

2. The amendment in 1(a) prescribes the manner in which Form 207 may be submitted.
3. The amendment in 1(b) sets out a protocol for parties to comply with where they wish to seek leave for a witness outside Singapore to give evidence by live video or live television link.

4. The amendment in 1(c) removes the reference to section 62A of the Evidence Act (Cap. 97) from paragraph 161A.
5. The amendments in 1(d), (e) and (f) clarify the Court dress requirements for advocates and solicitors attending open Court hearings in the Family Division of the High Court via remote communication technology.

Dated this 20th day of July 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Yap', written in a cursive style.

KENNETH YAP
REGISTRAR
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

24A. Service of summons under Part VIII of Women's Charter (except an application made under section 69 or 70)

- (1) The prior written consent of the party referred to in rule 131A(5)(a) of the Family Justice Rules shall be in Form 207 of Appendix A to these Practice Directions. This Form can be submitted in its physical form or by using the QR Code provided for this purpose which is made available at the Court premises and also found at www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg.

108A. Giving of evidence by person outside Singapore through live video or live television link in any court proceedings (other than proceedings in a criminal matter)

- (1) Any application for leave for any person outside Singapore to give evidence by live video or live television link in any court proceedings (other than proceedings in a criminal matter) must be made expeditiously and, in any case, unless the Court otherwise directs, not later than four weeks before the date of commencement of the hearing at which the person is to give evidence.
- (2) A party applying for leave for any person outside Singapore to give evidence by live video or live television link must take note of the relevant legislation and requirements in force in the foreign country or territory where the person is giving evidence. Certain countries or territories may impose prohibitions against, restrictions on, or requirements to obtain permission for or relating to, the giving of evidence by a person in that country or territory for court proceedings in a different country or territory. The party applying for leave must make all necessary enquiries, and take all necessary steps, to ensure that the foreign country or territory where the person is giving evidence raises no objection, to the giving of evidence in that country or territory for court proceedings in Singapore. This may be done by any means that the party considers appropriate, including:
 - (a) obtaining advice from a foreign lawyer qualified to advise on the laws of the relevant foreign country or territory;
 - (b) making enquiries with the relevant authorities; or
 - (c) obtaining permission from the relevant foreign country or territory, in accordance with any applicable procedure, for evidence to be given by a person located in that country or territory through a live video or live television link, if such permission is required.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, the proceedings mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) include all civil proceedings involving the examination of any person.

161A. Technology Facilities in Supreme Court Building

...

(6) [deleted]

167. Court dress

Trials in Court

(1) For the Family Division of the High Court,

...

(c) when appearing in trials or open Court proceedings that are conducted through a live video or live television link:

- (i) if the proceedings are conducted solely through the live video or live television link and do not take place in any courtroom, the attire for an advocate and solicitor will be the same as for trials and open court, except that the gown need not be worn; but
- (ii) if one or more Judges hear the proceedings in a courtroom, unless the Court directs otherwise, every advocate and solicitor in the proceedings will wear the usual attire for trials and open Court proceedings.

...

Hearings in Chambers

(4) When appearing before the Judge or Registrar in Chambers, the attire for an advocate and solicitor will be the same as for trials and open Court, save that the gown need not be worn.

...