

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 4 OF 2020

UPDATES ON MEASURES RELATING TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019) FROM 7 APRIL 2020 TO 4 MAY 2020

In view of the press release issued on 3 April 2020 by the Ministry of Health on “Circuit Breaker to Minimise Further Spread of COVID-19”, every matter¹ scheduled for hearing in the Supreme Court from 7 April 2020 to 4 May 2020 (the “Relevant Period”) will be adjourned to a date to be fixed, unless the matter is assessed to be essential and urgent. The matters which may be considered essential and urgent are set out in **Schedule 1**.

2 The Registry will inform parties by 6 April 2020, 12 noon, if their matters will be heard from 7 April 2020 to 14 April 2020 (inclusive). For matters that will be heard on or after 15 April 2020, parties will be notified as soon as possible and in any event, no later than five working days from the scheduled hearing date. For the avoidance of doubt, the Court may continue to deliver judgments during the Relevant Period.

3 Any hearing conducted during the Relevant Period will be conducted through electronic means of communication, unless otherwise directed by the Court. Parties are to comply with all safe distancing and other applicable measures in the preparation, presentation and conduct of hearings during the Relevant Period.

4 Attendance before the Duty Judge or Duty Registrar in relation to matters falling within Schedule 1 will continue to be dealt with during the Relevant Period in accordance with the Supreme Court Practice Directions and Registrar’s Circular No. 3 of 2020². Any request for the urgent hearing of any matter which does not fall within Schedule 1 must be accompanied by reasons explaining why the matter is essential and urgent. In making such a request, parties should note the following:

- (a) In determining whether a matter is essential and urgent, the Court will have regard to, among other things, whether the determination of the outcome of the matter is time

¹ This includes appeals, trials, applications (interlocutory or otherwise), case management conferences and pre-trial conferences.

² See <https://go.gov.sg/rc-3-2020>.

sensitive, and whether there is any legal requirement for the matter to be heard within any timeframe;

- (b) A matter is not essential and urgent merely because it is convenient for the parties to have the matter heard early or as scheduled; and
- (c) Parties should not make the request if the preparation, presentation and conduct of the hearing will entail parties breaching safe distancing measures (e.g. if lawyers will have to come into close physical proximity with one another, their staff or their clients). Parties will be required to satisfy the Court that measures are in place to avoid this.

The Court may, in its discretion, grant a request for urgent hearing if the matter is assessed by the Court to be essential and urgent.

5 Parties may also email the Supreme Court Registry at Supcourt_registry@supcourt.gov.sg on any urgent query with the email subject stating the relevant details such as, “[Urgent Query][*Case Number*][*Case Name*]”, as may be applicable.

6 With effect from 7 April 2020 until further notice, where a hearing is conducted by means of video conferencing or telephone conferencing using a remote communication technology approved by the Chief Justice or authorised by the Court, all recordings made of the hearing which have been authorised by the Court using such remote communication technology will constitute the official record of hearing for the purposes of Order 38A Rule 1 of the Rules of Court.

7 The Supreme Court Registry and other court services will continue to operate during the Relevant Period to provide court services for essential and urgent matters. Except where it relates to essential and urgent matters during the Relevant Period, any request for service by the Court process server, for inspection of a case file in person, for taking of hard copies of documents or for any enforcement action will not be processed.

8 Parties and their representatives should not visit the Court premises during the Relevant Period to tender documents in hard copy or in any media storage devices, including CD-ROMs. Any requirement to tender to the Court any hard copies of documents pursuant to the Rules of Court, the Supreme Court Practice Directions or the Court’s directions shall, during the Relevant Period, be complied with by electronically filing or submitting the soft copies (by email or otherwise) within the applicable timelines. If the aforesaid soft copies are submitted in any media storage devices, including CD-ROMs, it shall be posted by AR registered post and the applicable timelines shall be deemed to have been complied with if it is posted by the

last day of the timeline. The Court may issue directions for hard copies of the aforesaid to be tendered after the Relevant Period. For the avoidance of doubt, parties may continue to file documents electronically through the eLitigation system and send by AR registered post soft copy documents contained in CD-ROMs (as may be applicable) to the Court during the Relevant Period.

9 In relation to timelines for compliance under the Rules of Court or the Supreme Court Practice Directions or pursuant to the Court's directions, the following shall apply:

- (a) where matters scheduled for hearing during the Relevant Period are adjourned, parties may write in to the Court to request an extension of time; and
- (b) for all other matters, the applicable timelines will continue to apply but parties may write in to the Court to request an extension of time, if necessary.

10 All matters scheduled for hearing after the Relevant Period will continue as scheduled, unless otherwise directed by the Court. We will continue to monitor the situation. All court users and visitors are advised to refer to the Supreme Court website at <https://www.supremecourt.gov.sg> for the latest information and updates.

Dated this 5th day of April 2020.



TEH HWEE HWEE
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT

SCHEDULE 1

S/No	Type of Hearing
	High Court
	<i>Criminal Matters</i>
1	A Magistrate's Appeal involving an appellant whose sentence of imprisonment would be completed within or shortly after the Relevant Period.
2	A Magistrate's Appeal involving a sentence of caning, where the accused person is approaching 50 years of age.
3	An application for an order for review of detention.
4	An application concerning bail or review of bail.
5	An application for stay of judicial execution.
6	A request for any matter to be heard urgently that is assessed to be urgent.
	<i>Civil Matters (including SICC matters where applicable)</i>
7	An application for urgent injunction or search order.
8	An application to set aside an injunction or search order.
9	An application for the arrest or release of a vessel.
10	An application for the discharge of dangerous or perishable cargo.
11	An application for the judicial sale of a vessel, where the safety of the crew is a concern.
12	An appeal to the High Court under the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019.

S/No	Type of Hearing
13	An application under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act or the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act, if indicated by the Attorney-General's Chambers to be urgent and assessed to be urgent.
14	An application for urgent judicial review, e.g. in relation to implementation of COVID-19 measures.
15	An application under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act.
16	An appeal to the High Court under the Protection from Harassment Act, if there are issues of personal safety involved.
17	Certain applications for extension of time or variation of court orders relating to insolvency and restructuring matters.
18	Certain applications for interim payments in personal injury cases.
19	An application for stay of execution of a civil judgment.
20	Committal proceeding in respect of a person who is subject to an outstanding warrant of arrest and who needs to be produced before a Court within 48 hours.
21	A request for any matter to be heard urgently that is assessed to be urgent.
	Court of Appeal
22	An appeal involving a matter falling within the list of urgent High Court matters above.
23	An application for expedited appeal to the Court of Appeal.
24	Matters involving child custody or access issues.

S/No	Type of Hearing
25	A request for any matter to be heard urgently that is assessed to be urgent.

IN THE STATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 8 OF 2020

UPDATES ON MEASURES RELATING TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019) FROM 7 APRIL 2020 TO 4 MAY 2020

The Ministry of Health has issued a press release on 3 April 2020 – “Circuit Breaker to Minimise Further Spread of COVID-19 Cases” – on the enhancement of safe distancing measures to reduce the risk of further local transmission of COVID-19. In view of this, the Honourable the Chief Justice has directed that all matters³ scheduled for hearing in the State Courts during the Relevant Period (as defined below) be adjourned to a date to be fixed, unless the matter is essential and urgent. The Relevant Period commences on:

- (a) 7 April 2020 for non-criminal matters; and
- (b) 13 April 2020 for criminal matters;

and ends on 4 May 2020 (commencement and end dates inclusive). The Court may extend the Relevant Period if it deems it necessary to do so.

2. The matters which may be considered to be essential and urgent are set out in the **Schedule**. The hearings which fall within the Schedule and have been scheduled to be heard within the Relevant Period will proceed as scheduled, unless otherwise directed by the Court. The parties whose cases *will continue to be heard within the Relevant Period* will be sent reminders as follows:

- (a) Criminal hearings
 - (i) For hearings scheduled from 13 April 2020 to 17 April 2020 (inclusive), parties will be sent a reminder by 8 April 2020, 5pm that the hearing will proceed.
 - (ii) For hearings scheduled from 20 April 2020 to the last day of the Relevant Period (inclusive), parties will be sent a reminder as soon as possible, and in any event

³ Including appeals, trials, applications (interlocutory or otherwise), case management conferences and pre-trial conferences.

no later than five working days from the scheduled hearing date, that the hearing will proceed.

(b) Non-criminal hearings

- (i) For hearings scheduled from 8 April 2020 to 14 April 2020 (inclusive), parties will be sent a reminder by 6 April 2020, 5pm that the hearing will proceed.
- (ii) For hearings scheduled from 15 April 2020 to the last day of the Relevant Period (inclusive), parties will be sent a reminder as soon as possible, and in any event no later than five working days from the scheduled hearing date, that the hearing will proceed.

For non-criminal hearings scheduled for hearing on 7 April 2020, all parties will be informed by 6 April 2020, 9am, whether their cases would be proceeding.

As far as possible, hearings which proceed within the Relevant Period will be conducted using electronic means of communication, thereby dispensing with the need for physical attendance before the Court. Parties are to comply with all safe distancing and other applicable measures in the preparation, presentation and conduct of hearings during the Relevant Period.

Where a matter does not fall within the Schedule but parties consider the matter to be essential and urgent, they may write to the Court (by way of letter or email or through the relevant electronic case management system) for the matter to be heard within the Relevant Period. Such a request shall be made as soon as possible. The Court may, in its discretion, hear the matter if it is assessed by the Court to be essential and urgent. Parties should note the following:

- (a) in determining whether a matter is essential and urgent, the Court will have regard to, among other factors, whether the determination of its outcome is time sensitive or if there are any legal requirements which require the matter to be heard within a specified timeframe;
- (b) a hearing is not essential or urgent merely because it is convenient for the parties to have the matter heard early; and
- (c) parties should not make the request unless they are able to ensure, as well as satisfy the Court that measures are in place to secure, compliance with paragraph 3 above.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Court may continue to deliver judgments during the Relevant Period.

All requests to attend before the Duty Judicial Officer or the Duty Registrar in relation to matters falling within the Schedule will continue to be dealt with during the Relevant Period in accordance with the State Courts Practice Directions and Registrar’s Circular No. 5 of 2020.⁴ Parties may also email the State Courts Registry at contact@statecourts.gov.sg on any urgent queries, with the email subject stating the relevant details such as, “[Urgent Hearing][Case Number][Case Name]”, as may be applicable.

With effect from 7 April 2020 until further notice, where a hearing is conducted by means of video conferencing or telephone conferencing using a remote communication technology approved by the Chief Justice or authorised by the Court, all recordings made of the hearing which have been authorised by the Court using such remote communication technology will constitute the official record of hearing for the purposes of O 38A r 1 of the Rules of Court (Cap 322, R 5, 2014 Rev Ed).

The State Courts Registry and other court services will continue to remain operational during the Relevant Period to attend to matters which are essential and urgent. For matters which are not essential and urgent:

- (a) requests for service by the Court process server, inspection of the case file in person, taking of hard copies or any enforcement action will not be processed; and
- (b) parties and their representatives should not visit the Court to tender any hard copies of documents or any media storage devices, including CD-ROMs.

Any requirement (whether under the applicable legislation or State Courts Practice Directions or pursuant to the Court’s directions) to tender hard copies of any documents to the Court shall, if the documents are tendered during the Relevant Period, be complied with by electronically filing or submitting the soft copies within the applicable timelines. The Court may issue directions for hard copies of the aforesaid documents to be tendered after the Relevant Period. For avoidance of doubt, parties may continue to file documents electronically through the Integrated Criminal case filing and Management System (“ICMS”), Community Justice and

⁴ Accessible at <https://www.statecourts.gov.sg/cws/covid-19/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>.

Tribunals System (“CJTS”) and the eLitigation system and mail (by AR registered post) their CD-ROMs (as may be applicable) during the Relevant Period.

In relation to timelines required to be complied with under the applicable legislation or the State Courts Practice Directions, or pursuant to the Court’s directions, the following shall apply:

- (a) for matters scheduled for hearing during the Relevant Period, parties may write in to the Court (by way of letter or email or through the relevant electronic case management system) to apply for an extension of time; and
- (b) for all other matters, the applicable timelines will continue to apply but parties may write in to the Court (by way of letter or email or through the relevant electronic case management system) to request for an extension of time if necessary.

All expedited protection orders granted under the Protection from Harassment Act (Cap 256, 2015 Rev Ed) which expire within the Relevant Period will be extended for a further 4 weeks without the need for an application. A Respondent who objects to such an extension may write to the Court at statecourts_cjtd@statecourts.gov.sg to request an urgent pre-trial conference to be fixed for the Court to hear the objection.

All matters which are scheduled for hearing after the Relevant Period will remain as scheduled, unless otherwise directed by the Court. We will continue to monitor the situation. All court users and visitors are advised to refer to the State Courts website at <https://www.statecourts.gov.sg/cws/covid-19/Pages/COVID-19.aspx> for the latest information and updates.

SCHEDULE

1. This Schedule sets out matters that may be considered to be essential and urgent. It also sets out relevant procedural or administrative matters, if any, pertaining to such matters. Unless otherwise stated, Registrar’s Circular No. 5 of 2020 will continue to govern the mode of conducting any hearing during the Relevant Period.
2. Notwithstanding what is provided for below, the Court retains full discretion to decide, in respect of any particular hearing in a matter that may be considered to be essential and urgent:
 - (a) whether to proceed with that hearing; and
 - (b) the mode of conducting that hearing.

A. Essential and urgent matters before the Criminal Justice Division

S/n	Type of matter	Remarks
1	Production of an arrested person in court within 48 hours pursuant to section 68(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap 68, 2012 Rev Ed) (“CPC”).	Arrested persons shall be produced in court by video-link. Defence counsel, if any, are to write in to StateCourts_Crime_Registry@statecourts.gov.sg prior to the hearing to request for counsel’s particulars to be registered in the Integrated Case Management System (“ICMS”). Any applications by parties are to be submitted online via ICMS.
2	Applications for the remand of an accused for the purpose of investigations under s 238(3) of the CPC.	Accused persons shall be produced in court via video-link. Defence counsel, if any, are to write in to StateCourts_Crime_Registry@statecourts.gov.sg prior to the hearing to request for counsel’s particulars to be registered in ICMS. Any applications by parties are to be submitted online via ICMS.
3	Viewing of bodies by the Coroner under s 12(1) of the Coroners Act (Cap 63, 2012 Rev Ed).	Video-link shall be used as the default mode.

S/n	Type of matter	Remarks
4	Hearings before a Magistrate for assessment of suitability of bailors and application for further detention orders under the Immigration Act.	Video-link shall be used as the default mode.
5	Pre-trial conferences: (a) concerning remanded accused persons; and (b) which need to be expedited in the interests of justice (to be determined by the court on a case-by-case basis with input from parties).	Video-link shall be used as the default mode.
6	Trials: (a) concerning remanded accused persons; and (b) which need to be expedited in the interests of justice (to be determined by the Court on a case-by-case basis with input from parties).	Witnesses, accused persons, prosecution and defence counsel shall attend physically in court unless otherwise informed by the Court.
7	Plead guilty mentions: (a) concerning remanded accused persons; and (b) which need to be expedited in the interests of justice (to be determined by the Court on a case-by-case basis with input from parties).	The default mode of attendance for the prosecution, defence counsel and remanded accused persons shall be by video-link. Accused persons on bail are to attend physically in court.

B. Essential and urgent matters before the Civil Justice Division

S/n	Type of matter
1	An application for urgent injunction or search order.
2	An urgent application to set aside an injunction or search order.
3	Certain applications for interim payments where payment is urgently needed.
4	An urgent application for stay of execution of a civil judgment.
5	A Registrar's Appeal involving a matter falling within the list of urgent civil matters above.

C. Essential and urgent matters before the Community Justice and Tribunals Division

S/n	Type of matter
1	An application under the Protection from Harassment Act (Cap 256, 2015 Rev Ed) for any of the following: (a) Expedited Protection Order involving violence or doxxing; (b) Interim Stop Publication Order; (c) Interim Notification Order; (d) Interim Disabling Order; and (e) Targeted Interim Notification Order.

IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 2020

UPDATES ON MEASURES RELATING TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019) FROM 7 APRIL 2020 TO 4 MAY 2020

In view of the press release issued on 3 April 2020 by the Ministry of Health on “Circuit Breaker to Minimise Further Spread of COVID-19”, every matter⁵ scheduled for hearing in the Family Justice Courts (“FJC”) from 7 April 2020 to 4 May 2020 (the “Relevant Period”) will be adjourned to a date to be fixed, unless the matter is assessed to be essential and urgent. The matters which may be considered to be essential and urgent are set out in paragraph 1 of **Schedule 1**.

2 The Registry will inform parties by 6 April 2020, 5pm if their matters scheduled from 7 April 2020 to 9 April 2020 will be adjourned. For matters scheduled on or after 13 April 2020 to the last day of the Relevant Period (inclusive), parties will be notified as soon as possible and in any event, no later than three working days from the scheduled hearing date if the hearing will be adjourned. For the avoidance of doubt, the Court may continue to deliver judgments during the Relevant Period.

3 Any hearing conducted during the Relevant Period will be conducted through electronic means of communication, unless otherwise directed by the Court. Parties are to comply with all safe distancing and other applicable measures in the preparation, presentation and conduct of hearings during the Relevant Period.

4 Attendance before the Duty Judicial Officer in relation to matters falling within paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 will be by video conferencing. The directions in paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 of Registrar’s Circular No 1 of 2020⁶ which apply to counsel shall apply to litigants-in-person (“LIPs”) as well. Any request for the urgent hearing of any matter which does not fall within paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 must be accompanied by reasons explaining

⁵ This includes appeals, trials, applications (interlocutory or otherwise), case management conferences, pre-trial conferences and mediations.

⁶https://www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg/docs/default-source/legislation/registrar-circulars/rc_2020_1_inforonmeasuresrelatingtocovid19.pdf

why the matter is essential and urgent. In making such a request, parties should note the following:

- (a) In determining whether a matter is essential and urgent, the Court will have regard to, among other things, whether the determination of the outcome of the matter is time sensitive, and whether there is any legal requirement for the matter to be heard within any timeframe;
- (b) A matter is not essential and urgent merely because it is convenient for the parties to have the matter heard early or as scheduled; and
- (c) Parties should not make the request if the preparation, presentation and conduct of the hearing will entail parties breaching safe distancing measures (e.g. if lawyers will have to come into close physical proximity with one another, their staff or clients). Parties will be required to satisfy the Court that measures are in place to avoid this.

The Court may, in its discretion, grant a request for urgent hearing if the matter is assessed by the Court to be essential and urgent.

5 Parties may also email the FJC Registry at fjcourts_maintpos@fjcourts.gov.sg for maintenance matters and fjcourts_family_registry@fjcourts.gov.sg for all other matters on any urgent query with the email subject stating the relevant details such as, “[Urgent Query][Case Number][Case Name]”, as may be applicable.

6 With effect from 7 April 2020 until further notice, where a hearing is conducted by means of video conferencing or telephone conferencing using a remote communication technology approved by the Chief Justice or authorised by the Court, all recordings made of the hearing which have been authorised by the Court using such remote communication technology will constitute the official record of hearing for the purposes of Rule 611 of the Family Justice Rules.

7 The FJC Registry counters and other administrative court services will continue to operate during the Relevant Period to provide court services for essential and urgent matters as set out in paragraph 1 of **Schedule 1**. During the Relevant Period, counter services in relation to the filing of Magistrate’s Complaints will remain available, while verification of documents such as original wills will be suspended. All other counter services will be available by remote

means. Parties may email fjcourts_family_registry@fjcourts.gov.sg for enquiries. Parties and their representatives should not visit the Court premises during the Relevant Period to tender documents in hard copy or in any media storage devices, including CD-ROMs. Any requirement to tender to the Court any hard copies of documents pursuant to the Family Justice Rules, the FJC Practice Directions or the Court's directions shall, if the documents are tendered during the Relevant Period, be complied with by electronically filing or submitting the soft copies within the applicable timelines. The Court may still issue directions for hard copies of the aforesaid to be tendered after the Relevant Period. For the avoidance of doubt, parties may continue to file documents electronically through the eLitigation system and send by AR registered post soft copy documents contained in CD-ROMs (as may be applicable) to the Court during the Relevant Period.

8 For family violence and maintenance matters under Part VII and Part VIII of the Women's Charter (Cap 353, 2009 Rev Ed), applicants are strongly encouraged to reserve an appointment slot using iFAMS before attending in person at the FJC to file their complaint. Where affidavit or documentary evidence needs to be tendered, it shall be deposited in a physical drop box at the entrance of FJC's premises at 3 Havelock Square, in lieu of tendering to the Court in person.

9 In relation to timelines for compliance under the Family Justice Rules or the FJC Practice Directions or pursuant to the Court's directions, the following shall apply:

- (a) Where matters scheduled for hearing during the Relevant Period are adjourned, parties may write in to the Court to request an extension of time; and
- (b) For all other matters, the applicable timelines will continue to apply but parties may write in to the Court to request an extension of time, if necessary.

10 All matters scheduled for hearing after the Relevant Period will continue as scheduled, unless otherwise directed by the Court. We will continue to monitor the situation. All court users and visitors are advised to refer to the FJC website at <https://www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg> for the latest information and updates.

Dated this 5th day of April 2020.



KENNETH YAP YEW CHOH
REGISTRAR
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS

Schedule 1

During the Relevant Period, the FJC will hear only urgent and essential matters. In general, these comprise matters which are **time sensitive**, constitute a **threat to life and liberty** and/or involve **urgent needs of the family**. These matters, as well as matters before the Duty Judicial Officer, will be conducted by video conferencing to the maximum extent possible, including for cases involving litigants-in-person (“LIPs”). Where necessary, interpretation services will be provided by video conferencing. All other matters which are not urgent and essential will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks.

2 Subject to paragraph 1 of this Schedule, the following matters shall be adjourned for at least 4 weeks:

- (a) Matters which are heard by the **High Court (Family Division)**;
- (b) **Probate and adoption matters and matters under the Mental Capacity Act (Cap 177A, 2010 Rev Ed) (“MCA”)** unless the Court is satisfied that the matter is urgent (for example, applications for access to emergency funds⁷ under the MCA will continue to be heard, with attendance of counsel or parties to be dispensed with where practicable); and
- (c) **All originating summonses (for matters other than those mentioned in paragraph 2(b) of this Schedule) and divorces and their related interlocutory applications as well as ancillary matters (including mediation)** save for child abduction cases where urgent orders are required.

3 For proceedings in the **Youth Court**:

- (a) Youth Arrest cases will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks unless the subject is in remand (in which case the proceedings will be conducted by video conferencing) or if the subject would otherwise be prejudiced as a result of an adjournment.
- (b) Child Protection cases where the safety of the child is at risk will proceed and hearings will generally be conducted by video conferencing. The child’s

⁷ https://www.familyjusticecourts.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/media-release_fjc-dbs-collaboration-for-emergency-funding_31-jan-2020.pdf

attendance at the hearing will be dispensed with and if the child's parents consent, officers of the Ministry of Social and Family Development will attend hearings on the behalf of parents by video conferencing.

- (c) Beyond Parental Control cases will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks save in cases where the youth is in remand.

4 For **family violence proceedings** (including mentions and hearings) under Part VII of the Women's Charter (Cap 353, 2009 Rev Ed):

- (a) Proceedings will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks and where an expedited order ("EO") has been granted, the EO will be extended without the need for an application.
- (b) Matters involving a higher risk of imminent danger will continue to be heard. For such cases, hearings will be conducted by video conferencing as far as possible.
- (c) Proceedings consequential to Part VII proceedings such as reviews for Mandatory Counselling Orders and show cause hearings for bailors will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks.

5 For **maintenance proceedings** (including mentions and hearings) under Part VIII of the Women's Charter (Cap 353, 2009 Rev Ed):

- (a) The Court will continue to hear applications where the Court is satisfied that an urgent hearing is necessary due to immediate financial needs on the part of the applicant and/or his/her dependants.
- (b) Mediation between parties referred to in paragraph 5(a) of this Schedule will be conducted by video conferencing where practicable.
- (c) Mentions will be conducted by video conferencing where practicable.
- (d) For orders requiring physical attendance to show proof of monthly payment towards maintenance or arrears, this will generally be dispensed with and parties can show payment remotely by emailing fjcourts_maintpos@fjcourts.gov.sg.

- (e) Proceedings consequential to Part VIII proceedings such as show cause hearings for bailors will be adjourned for at least 4 weeks.

6 Where applicable, paragraph 4 of this Schedule shall apply to applications for protection orders under the **Vulnerable Adults Act 2018** (Act No 27 of 2018) (“VAA”). Other hearings under the VAA will generally be adjourned unless the Court is satisfied that an urgent hearing is necessary.

7 **Counselling** for divorce/guardianship matters or family violence proceedings will continue as they do not require attendance in Court or preparatory work by parties and will generally be provided by telephone conferencing or video conferencing. The Court may also, taking into account the urgency of the case and the welfare and vulnerability of the child, conduct child interviews and/or custody/access evaluation by video conferencing.