

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 2005

CHANGES TO THE MODES OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Act 2005 was passed by Parliament on 21 November 2005 and assented to by the President on 7 December 2005. Under this Act, several statutes have been amended to reduce the number of modes of commencement of proceedings from four to two. The Rules of Court (Amendment No. 3) Amendment Rules have also been gazetted to provide for similar amendments. These statutory amendments will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will commence on 1 January 2006 and the second phase will be operative in the second quarter of 2006, on a date to be announced. Lawyers may refer to articles and other materials concerning these amendments on the Supreme Court website at <http://www.supremecourt.gov.sg>.

SHUTDOWN OF ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM

2 The necessary modifications have been made to the Electronic Filing System (EFS) to accommodate these changes. As these modifications affect many modules within the EFS, the EFS server will have to be shut down on Thursday, 29 December 2005 at 11.59 p.m. in order to roll out these technical changes. The EFS server will be ready for use on Sunday, 1 January 2006 at 8 p.m.

3 It will not be possible to file any documents through EFS from Friday, 30 December 2005 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, 1 January 2006.

4 During the office hours of the Legal Registry, lawyers with exceptionally urgent applications may see the Duty Registrar for leave to file hard copies of the relevant documents upon undertaking to file them electronically subsequently. The Legal Registry will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 30 December 2005 and from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 31 December 2005. Manual filing of documents will not be processed after 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 31 December 2005.

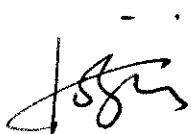
5 For *urgent* applications which will be time-barred if not filed between 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 31 December 2005 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, 1 January 2006, they may be sent to the Supreme Court Registry via e-mail to Supcourt_QSM@supcourt.gov.sg. Once the EFS server is activated, these documents should be electronically filed with a request to backdate the time of filing. When the Legal Registry resumes operation on 3 January 2006, the Registry will backdate the EFS application to the date and time of receipt of the e-mail, upon accepting that there is a need to backdate the application to preserve time. However, the Legal Registry reserves the right not to backdate the documents where the applications are not genuinely urgent.

6 Such e-mails should bear the subject title "Urgent Application (Reason: potential time bar)". Lawyers should also include a brief explanation of the urgency of the application and attach the documents to be filed as portable document format (PDF) files.

CRIMSONLOGIC HELPDESK

7 For the month of January 2006, the hotline **6887 7888** manned by CrimsonLogic Pte Ltd's Helpdesk will answer all queries concerning filing procedure in EFS and other technical difficulties arising from the legislative changes. In keeping with the current practice, no legal advice will be provided.

Dated this 16 day of December 2005.



KOH JUAT JONG
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT