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## FAQ: Temporary Measures for Court Proceedings and Syariah Court Proceedings

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**Q: Will court proceedings be conducted online in lieu of the circuit breaker measures?**

**A:** Yes, an accused person or a witness may:

- a) provide evidence by live video or live television link using a remote communication technology approved by the Chief Justice; or
- b) make an appearance (other than to give evidence) in those proceedings, by means of a live video, live television link or live audio link using a remote communication technology approved by the Chief Justice.

This is subject to the following conditions:

- a) for an accused person, he or she makes an appearance or gives evidence during the specified period and from a place within a court or a prison in Singapore, using the remote communication technology; or
- b) for a witness (whether in Singapore or elsewhere), he or she makes an appearance or gives evidence during the specified period from a place specified by the court using the remote communication technology, but only if he or she is an expert witness or is a witness of fact and the



Pro Bono Centre  
SMU School of Law  
55 Armenian Street  
Singapore 179943



6828 1951



probonocentre  
@smu.edu.sg



[https://pbc.smu.edu.  
sg](https://pbc.smu.edu.sg)





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parties to the proceedings consent to the use of the remote communication technology; and

- c) the court is satisfied that sufficient administrative and technical facilities and arrangements are made at the place where the accused person or witness is to make an appearance or to give evidence and it is in the interests of justice to do so.

**Q: Will Syariah Court proceedings be conducted online in lieu of the circuit breaker measures?**

**A:** Yes, a witness may provide evidence by live video or live television link using a remote communication technology approved by the senior president of the Syariah Court. Apart from giving evidence, the witness may make an appearance by means of a live video, live television link or live audio link using a remote communication technology approved by the senior president of the Syariah Court.

This is subject to the following conditions:

- a) for a witness (whether in Singapore or elsewhere), he or she makes an appearance or gives evidence during the specified period from a place specified by the Syariah Court using the remote communication technology, but only if he or she is an expert witness or is a witness of fact and the parties to the proceedings consent to the use of the remote communication technology; and
- b) the Syariah Court is satisfied that sufficient administrative and technical facilities and arrangements are made at the place where the witness is to make an appearance or to give evidence and it is in the interests of justice to do so.



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**Q: What are the situations in which the court or the Syariah Court can revoke, suspend or vary an order for online court proceedings?**

**A:** There are 5 situations:

- a) the live video, live television link or live audio link stops working and it would cause unreasonable delay to wait until a working system becomes available;
- b) it is necessary for the court or the Syariah Court to do so to comply with its duty to ensure that the proceedings are conducted fairly to the parties in the proceedings;
- c) it is necessary for the court or the Syariah Court to do so, so that the accused person or witness can identify a person or a thing or so that the accused person or witness can participate in or view a demonstration or an experiment;
- d) there has been a material change in the circumstances after the court or the Syariah Court has made an order; or
- e) it is necessary in the interests of justice to do so.

**Q: Will the online court or Syariah Court proceedings be unfair towards the parties to the proceedings?**

**A:** The duty of the court or the Syariah Court is to ensure that the online court proceedings are conducted fairly to the parties to the proceedings.

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**The information contained in this FAQ is correct as of 21 May 2020**

This FAQ was authored by the following students from the SMU School of Law as a service to the community: :  
*Claire Goh, Dou Han, Grace Lim, Jeanette Tang, Joel Fun, Justin Tang, Mustafa Shakir, Slevin Chua*

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