

PART XIV: TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES

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PART XIV

TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES

117. Use of the Technology Courts and the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley

- (1) The Technology Courts and the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley may, at the discretion of the Registrar, be used:
 - (a) for the hearing of any matter, whether before a Judge or Registrar, in open Court or in Chambers; or
 - (b) for any other dispute resolution process.

- (2) The Registrar may refuse any request for the use of any of the services described in this Part at any time owing to the unavailability of staff or equipment or for any other reason. The Registrar need not give any reasons for the refusal of such a request.

118. The Technology Courts

- (1) The following IT/audio-visual equipment is available for use in the Technology Courts:
 - (a) a multi-system S-VHS video cassette player, which allows the playback of analogue S-VHS video cassette tapes;
 - (b) a multi-format disc player, which allows the playback of DVD-Video / DVD-R / DVD-RW / Video CD / CD / CD-R / CD-RW media;
 - (c) a document camera capable of displaying images of, *inter alia*, ordinary paper documents, 3-dimensional objects, slides, negatives and X-ray films;
 - (d) an A4 colour video printer for the printing of video images captured from the projection system or document camera;
 - (e) a wired lavelier microphone for the lead counsel (available only upon booking);
 - (f) an audio cassette player which allows the playback of analogue audio cassette tapes (available only upon booking); and
 - (g) personal computers with dual screen to access electronic documents.

The computer and video images can be displayed and video-switched onto the computer LCDs and the 100-inch projection screen.

- (2) The audio-visual system of the Technology Courts allows the connection of other audio-visual equipment or personal computers to the system so that the output from such equipment may be broadcast in the Courtroom. Notebook points, power outlets and wireless broadband are also available.
- (3) Equipment has been installed in the Technology Courts that will allow videoconferencing with local or overseas parties. All connections will be dial-in and calls will be made through the Videoconferencing Gateway. The equipment includes one PRI ISDN exchange line with international direct dialing capabilities and which supports transmission speeds of 128Kbps to 2Mbps. The technical specifications of the videoconferencing facilities are as follows:

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- (a) *Videoconferencing Gateway* – Polycom MGC-25 Unified 24 V;
- (b) *Videoconferencing Endpoint* – Polycom VSX 8000 (IP based);
- (c) *Protocol* – ITU H.323 and H.320 compliant;
- (d) *Audio Support* – G.711a, G.711u, G.722, G.722.1, G.723.1, G.728, G.729a, Siren 7, Siren 14;
- (e) *Video Support* – H.261, H.263, H.264;
- (f) *Network Speed* – Recommended connection at ISDN 384Kbps;
and
- (g) *Network Connection* – All calls will be connected through the Polycom Gateway and linked to the Courtroom.

119. Applications to use the Technology Courts

- (1) An application to use a Technology Court for the hearing of any matter before a Judge or Registrar must be made by submitting Form 27 of Appendix A of these Practice Directions with the Legal Registry of the Supreme Court at least 14 days before the hearing at which it is to be used. An electronic version of this form may also be submitted on the Supreme Court website at <http://www.supremeCourt.gov.sg>.
- (2) An application to use a Technology Court for any other dispute resolution process must be made by submitting Form 28 to the Registrar through the relevant person-in-charge at the organisation at which the dispute resolution process is carried out at least 14 days before the dispute resolution proceedings at which it is to be used.
- (3) Solicitors may check the availability of the Technology Courts on the Supreme Court website at <http://www.supremeCourt.gov.sg>.
- (4) The attention of solicitors is drawn to section 62A of the Evidence Act (Cap. 97, 1997 Rev Ed), which provides:

Evidence through live video or live television links

62A. —(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a person may, with leave of the Court, give evidence through a live video or live television link in any proceedings, other than proceedings in a criminal matter, if —

- (a) the witness is below the age of 16 years;
- (b) it is expressly agreed between the parties to the proceedings that evidence may be so given;
- (c) the witness is outside Singapore; or
- (d) the Court is satisfied that it is expedient in the interests of justice to do so.

(2) In considering whether to grant leave for a witness outside Singapore to give evidence by live video or live television link under this section, the Court shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the following:

- (a) the reasons for the witness being unable to give evidence in Singapore;
- (b) the administrative and technical facilities and arrangements made at the place where the witness is to give his evidence; and
- (c) whether any party to the proceedings would be unfairly prejudiced.

(3) The Court may, in granting leave under subsection (1), make an order on all or any of the following matters:

- (a) the persons who may be present at the place where the witness is giving evidence;
- (b) that a person be excluded from the place while the witness is giving evidence;
- (c) the persons in the Courtroom who must be able to be heard, or seen and heard, by the witness and by the persons with the witness;
- (d) the persons in the Courtroom who must not be able to be heard, or seen and heard, by the witness and by the persons with the witness;
- (e) the persons in the Courtroom who must be able to see and hear the witness and the persons with the witness;
- (f) the stages in the proceedings during which a specified part of the order is to have effect;
- (g) the method of operation of the live video or live television link system including compliance with such minimum technical standards as may be determined by the Chief Justice; and
- (h) any other order the Court considers necessary in the interests of justice.

(4) The Court may revoke, suspend or vary an order made under this section if —

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

(5) The Court shall not make an order under this section, or include a particular provision in such an order, if to do so would be

inconsistent with the Court's duty to ensure that the proceedings are conducted fairly to the parties to the proceedings.

(6) An order made under this section shall not cease to have effect merely because the person in respect of whom it was made attains the age of 16 years before the proceedings in which it was made are finally determined.

(7) Evidence given by a witness, whether in Singapore or elsewhere, through a live video or live television link by virtue of this section shall be deemed for the purposes of sections 193, 194, 195, 196, 205 and 209 of the Penal Code (Cap. 224) as having been given in the proceedings in which it is given.

(8) Where a witness gives evidence in accordance with this section, he shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be giving evidence in the presence of the Court.

(9) The Rules Committee constituted under the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322) may make such rules as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to this section and for prescribing anything which may be prescribed under this section.

- (5) Upon the successful booking of a Technology Court for videoconferencing,
- (a) prior arrangements for videoconferencing testing have to be made at least 5 working days before the first day fixed for the hearing, in order to ensure equipment compatibility;
 - (b) applicants will be informed of the ISDN number for videoconferencing during the testing session; and
 - (c) as a matter of general practice, the remote site will dial in to the Technology Court and it is the responsibility of the party requesting the videoconferencing to coordinate the booking and calling in from the remote site.
- (6) Any person who desires to use audio-visual and computers equipment additional to those provided in the Technology Courts will be asked to provide details of such equipment when applying to use the Courtroom.

The applicant must also be prepared to have the equipment available for testing with the audio-visual system of the Technology Courts at least 3 days before the first day fixed for the hearing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide equipment that is compatible with the audio-visual system of the Technology Courts.

120. The Mobile Info-Technology Trolley

The following equipment is available for booking with the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley:

- (1) *Audio-Visual with Display:*
 - (a) 43" Plasma Display;
 - (b) Multi-system S-VHS video cassette player, which allows the playback of analogue S-VHS video cassette tapes; and
 - (c) Multi-format disc player, which allows the playback of DVD-Audio, DVD-Video, DVD-RAM, DVD-R, CD, CD-R/RW and SVCD media.

- (2) *Audio-Visual with Projector:*
 - (a) XGA 2500 ANSI Lumens projector;
 - (b) Multi-system S-VHS video cassette player, which allows the playback of analogue S-VHS video cassette tapes;
 - (c) Multi-format disc player, which allows the playback of DVD-Audio, DVD-Video, DVD-RAM, DVD-R, CD, CD-R/RW and SVCD media; and
 - (d) Portable 90 or 100 inch tripod screen.

- (3) *Videoconferencing Mobile Cart:*
 - (a) Single 34" Multimedia Display; and
 - (b) Polycom VSX 7000 videoconferencing system.

- (4) *Videoconferencing with Audio-Visual Mobile Cart:*
 - (a) Dual 34" Multimedia Displays;
 - (b) Polycom VSX 7000 videoconferencing system;
 - (c) Multi-system S-VHS video cassette player, which allows the playback of analogue S-VHS video cassette tapes; and

- (d) Multi-format disc player, which allows the playback of DVD-Audio, DVD-Video, DVD-RAM, DVD-R, CD, CD-R/RW and SVCD media.

- (5) *Projector System:*
 - (a) XGA 2500 ANSI Lumens projector; and
 - (b) Portable 90 or 100 inch tripod screen.

- (6) *Other equipment:*
 - (a) Audio cassette player which allows the playback of analogue audio cassette tapes; and
 - (b) Document camera capable of displaying images of, *inter alia*, ordinary paper documents, 3-dimensional objects, slides, negatives and X-ray films.

121. Applications to use the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley

- (1) An application to use the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley for the hearing of any matter before a Judge or Registrar must be made by filing Form 29 of Appendix A of these Practice Directions with the Legal Registry of the Supreme Court as soon as practicable, as the resources are allocated on a first-come-first served basis. An electronic version of this form may also be submitted on the Supreme Court website at <http://www.supremeCourt.gov.sg>.
- (2) An application to use the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley for any other dispute resolution process must be made by submitting Form 28 to the Registrar through the relevant person-in-charge at the organisation at which the dispute resolution process is carried out as soon as practicable, as availability of the resources are on a first-come-first served basis.
- (3) The mobile audio-visual equipment is available for use in both the traditional Courtroom and the hearing chambers while the mobile videoconferencing equipment is only for use in the hearing chambers.
- (4) Any applicant desiring to use the mobile audio-visual equipment is required to provide details of the type of evidence presenting and media format in the application form. The applicant must also be prepared to have the presentation material or media available for testing with the audio-visual system at least 2 days before the first day fixed for the hearing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide presentation materials or media format that is compatible with the equipment provided by the Court.
- (5) Upon a successful application of the use of the mobile videoconferencing equipment,

- (a) prior arrangements for videoconferencing testing have to be made at least 5 working days before the first day fixed for the hearing, in order to ensure equipment compatibility;
- (b) applicants will be informed of the ISDN number for videoconferencing during the testing arrangement; and
- (c) as a matter of general practice, the remote site will dial into the Courtroom or chamber and it is the responsibility of the party requesting the videoconferencing to coordinate the booking and calling in from the remote site.

122. Fees

The fees for the use of the Technology Courts and the Mobile Info-Technology Trolley are set out in Appendix D of these Practice Directions.