

Dispute Resolution

## Upcoming Amendment to the Family Justice Rules 2014 – Draft New Rules

On 10 August 2023, the Family Justice Courts ("FJC") announced that it has been undertaking a comprehensive review and redesign of the Family Justice Rules ("FJR"). The FJR will be amended and will comprise three volumes (collectively, "new Rules"):

- (a) Family Justice (General) Rules ("General Rules");
- (b) Family Justice (Probate and Other Matters) Rules 2023; and
- (c) Family Justice (Protection from Harassment) Rules 2023 ("PH Rules").

Key changes include:

- (a) **Expansion of the simplified track for divorce and judicial separation proceedings under Part 2, Rule 8 of the General Rules.** The simplified track will also be available so long as parties have reached an agreement on the grounds for divorce or judicial separation, even if they have not reached an agreement on the ancillary matters.
- (b) **Protection from harassment proceedings in the Family Court.** The new PH Rules cover, among other things, the commencement of civil proceedings for orders under Part 3 of the Protection from Harassment Act 2014 ("POHA") and excludes claims under section 11 of POHA ("PH proceedings") in the Family Court, and the transfer of PH proceedings from the Family Court to the Protection of Harassment Court.

Other changes include:

- (a) simplification and streamlining of the new Rules;
- (b) nomenclature changes;
- (c) commencement of Action by way of Originating Application and doing away with pleadings for Matrimonial Applications;

# Client Update: Singapore

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- (d) requirement to file a Binding Summary setting out a summary of the parties' respective positions (replacing the fact and position sheet with the joint summary in ancillary matters proceedings under Part 2, Rule 18 of the General Rules); and
- (e) alignment of the process for most applications, for example harmonising the number of affidavits to be filed under Part 5, Rules 12 and 15 of the General Rules.

For details and other changes, please refer to the draft versions of the new Rules. The new Rules are expected to come into force no earlier than December 2023, along with the necessary changes to the eLitigation system. For interim reference, the FJC has made available a draft version of the following new Rules on the SG Courts website at [www.judiciary.gov.sg](http://www.judiciary.gov.sg):

- [Family Justice \(General\) Rules](#)
- [Family Justice \(Probate and Other Matters\) Rules 2023](#)
- [Family Justice \(Protection from Harassment\) Rules 2023](#)

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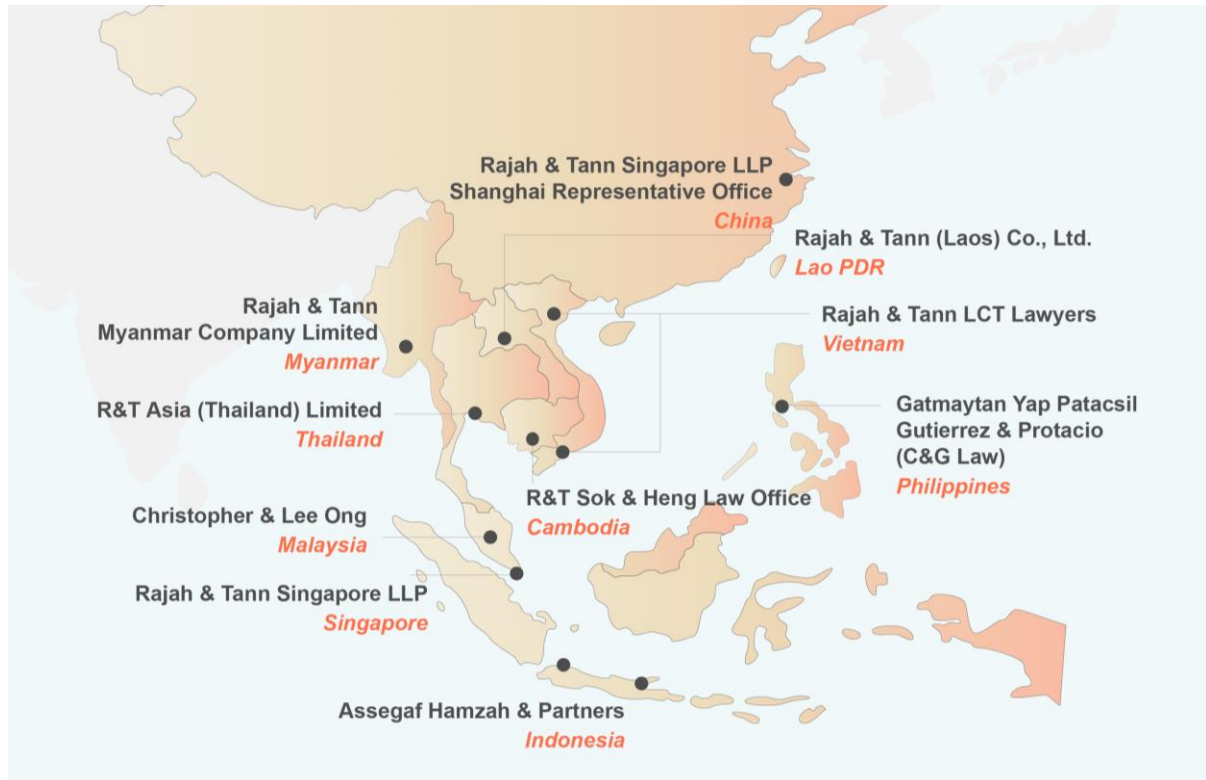
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