



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**

**ACTS SUPPLEMENT**

*Published by Authority*

---

---

NO. 30]

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

[2023

---

---

First published in the *Government Gazette*, Electronic Edition, on 4 September 2023 at 5 pm.

The following Act was passed by Parliament on 2 August 2023 and assented to by the President on 21 August 2023:—

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

---

**No. 25 of 2023.**

I assent.

HALIMAH YACOB,  
*President.*  
*21 August 2023.*

(LS)

An Act to amend the Oaths and Declarations Act 2000, the Notaries Public Act 1959 and certain other Acts to enable statutory declarations and certain oaths and affirmations to be taken, and certain powers or functions of a notary public to be exercised, remotely through live video link, live television link or other electronic means of communication, and to clarify that certain oaths and affirmations can be taken remotely through live video link or live television link.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

---

---

**Short title and commencement**

1. This Act is the Oaths, Declarations and Notarisations (Remote Methods) Act 2023 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

PART 1

AMENDMENT OF OATHS AND  
DECLARATIONS ACT 2000

**New section 7A**

2. In the Oaths and Declarations Act 2000 (called in this Part the principal Act), after section 7, insert —

**“Oath or affirmation through remote communication modalities**

7A. Subject to the Rules of Court or any other written law, where an oath under section 4 is required to be taken and administered, or an affirmation in lieu thereof under section 5 is required to be made and administered, then any requirement in section 4 or 5 for the person taking the oath or making the affirmation to appear before the court or person acting judicially is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and the court or person administering the oath or affirmation, do so in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Third Schedule; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the court or person acting judicially (as the case may be) to —
  - (i) communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;

- (ii) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present; and
- (iii) if the oath or affirmation is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath or affirmation to be subscribed.”.

### **Amendment of section 11**

3. In the principal Act, in section 11, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) The requirement in subsection (1)(b) for a person (called in this section and section 11A the declarant) to appear before a court, a person acting judicially, or a prescribed person for the purposes of making a statutory declaration in Singapore, is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the declarant makes the statutory declaration, and the court, person acting judicially or prescribed person (as the case may be) takes or receives the statutory declaration, in Singapore in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Third Schedule; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the court, person acting judicially or prescribed person (as the case may be) to —
  - (i) communicate with the declarant, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
  - (ii) confirm the identity of the declarant and any interpreter present; and
  - (iii) verify by inspection the document to be sworn and signed by the declarant.

(1B) For the purposes of subsection (1A), a statutory declaration is made, taken or received in Singapore only if all the following persons are in Singapore when the statutory declaration is made, taken or received:

- (a) the declarant;
- (b) the court, person acting judicially or prescribed person, as the case may be.”.

#### **New sections 11A and 11B**

4. In the principal Act, after section 11, insert —

##### **“Electronic signature for statutory declarations**

**11A.**—(1) Despite anything in section 8 of the Electronic Transactions Act 2010, where a rule of law requires a statutory declaration to be signed, or provides for certain consequences if a statutory declaration is not signed, that requirement is satisfied in relation to a statutory declaration in the form of an electronic record if a prescribed electronic signature is applied by —

- (a) the declarant; and
- (b) the court, person acting judicially or prescribed person, as the case may be.

(2) Different types of electronic signature may be prescribed in respect of the different categories of persons mentioned in subsection (1).

(3) Subsection (1) does not affect any other written law that provides for the type of electronic signature to be used for signing a statutory declaration in the form of an electronic record for the purposes of that written law.

(4) In this section, “electronic signature” means an electronic signature that satisfies section 8 of the Electronic Transactions Act 2010.

##### **Validation of statutory declarations sworn through live video link or live television link**

**11B.**—(1) This section applies to any statutory declaration purportedly made before the date of commencement of section 3 of the Oaths, Declarations and Notarisations (Remote Methods) Act 2023 (called in this section the appointed date) before a court, person acting judicially or prescribed person through a

live video link or live television link, that was not specifically provided under any written law.

(2) A statutory declaration mentioned in subsection (1) is taken to have been validly made as if section 11(1A) were in force at the material time, if excluding the prescribed requirements mentioned in section 11(1A), the statutory declaration would have been validly made had it been made on the appointed date; and no legal proceedings may be instituted on or after that date on account of the statutory declaration having been purportedly made through a live video link or live television link.

(3) However, a person is not to be punished for an act or omission committed before the appointed date that, but for subsection (2), would not have been an offence.”.

### **Amendment of section 15**

5. In the principal Act, in section 15, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) To avoid doubt, where an oath is required to be tendered to and taken under subsection (1) or (2), or an affirmation in lieu thereof is to be made under section 16, a person may take the oath or make the affirmation by appearing before the person administering the oath or affirmation through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath or affirmation to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present; and
- (c) if the oath or affirmation is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath or affirmation to be subscribed.”.

---

---

**New Third Schedule**

6. In the principal Act, after the Second Schedule, insert —

**“THIRD SCHEDULE**

Sections 7A, 11(1A) and 18

**REMOTE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES**

1. Live video link
2. Live television link”.

**PART 2**

**AMENDMENT OF NOTARIES PUBLIC ACT 1959**

**New sections 4A and 4B**

7. In the Notaries Public Act 1959, after section 4, insert —

**“Exercise of power or function through remote communication modalities**

**4A.**—(1) Subject to subsection (4), where in the exercise of a power or function by a notary public for the purposes of making, or signing and sealing, a notarial act, a person (called in this section the relevant person) is required to appear before the notary public for the purposes of executing a document or making a declaration under oath or affirmation or for any other purpose, the requirement for the relevant person to appear before the notary public is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the relevant person executes the document or makes the declaration under oath or affirmation or carries out such other purpose, and the notary public exercises his or her power or function in connection thereof, in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Schedule; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the notary public to —

- (i) communicate with the relevant person, and any witness or interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (ii) confirm the identity of the relevant person, and any witness or interpreter present; and
- (iii) verify by inspection any document to be signed, or sworn and signed, by the relevant person.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), where a notary public is required to issue a certificate of the conformity of a copy or extract of a document with the document in the exercise of a power or function by the notary public, the notary public may exercise that power or function by comparing the copy or extract with the document in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Schedule, that allows the notary public to verify by comparison through the electronic means of communication that the copy or extract conforms to the document.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), where a notary public is required to issue a certificate of the nature or authenticity of a document in the exercise of a power or function by the notary public, the notary public may exercise that power or function by inspecting the document in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Schedule, that allows the notary public to verify by inspection through the electronic means of communication that the document is what it purports to be.

(4) When exercising a power or function pursuant to subsection (1), (2) or (3), the notary public must be satisfied that he or she is able to discharge his or her duty to exercise due care, skill and diligence in relation to the exercise of the power or function concerned, which duty remains unaffected by the notary public's use of any electronic means of communication.

(5) Any subsidiary legislation made to prescribe requirements for the use of any electronic means of communication



---

---

mentioned in subsection (1), (2) or (3) is valid despite any rule of law relating to the exercise of the power or function to the contrary.

(6) In this Act, a power or function exercised pursuant to subsection (1) is treated as being exercised within Singapore, if the notary public and the relevant person are in Singapore when the relevant person appears before the notary public through the electronic means of communication.

(7) In this Act, a power or function exercised pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) is treated as being exercised within Singapore, if the notary public, the document, and any copy or extract of the document, are in Singapore when the notary public exercises his or her power or function pursuant to subsection (2) or (3).

(8) In subsection (1), the making of a declaration under oath or affirmation includes —

- (a) swearing or affirming that the contents of an affidavit or a statutory declaration mentioned in section 4(3)(a) are true and correct; and
- (b) entering a note of protest in respect of any matter concerning a vessel (including cargo carried on the vessel).

**Validation of statutory declarations sworn through live video link or live television link, etc.**

**4B.**—(1) This section applies to —

- (a) any statutory declaration purportedly made before the date of commencement of section 7 of the Oaths, Declarations and Notarisations (Remote Methods) Act 2023 (called in this section the appointed date) before a notary public through a live video link or live television link, that was not specifically provided under any written law; and
- (b) any other notarial act purportedly made, or signed and sealed, by a notary public before the appointed date,

in respect of which the notary public exercised the power or function through a live video link or live television link.

(2) A statutory declaration mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is taken to have been validly made as if section 4A(1) were in force at the material time, if excluding the prescribed requirements mentioned in section 4A(1), the statutory declaration would have been validly made had it been made on the appointed date; and no legal proceedings may be instituted on or after that date on account of the statutory declaration having been purportedly made through a live video link or live television link.

(3) A notarial act mentioned in subsection (1)(b) is taken to have been validly made, or signed and sealed, as if section 4A(1), (2) or (3) were in force at the material time, if excluding the prescribed requirements mentioned in section 4A(1), (2) or (3) (as the case may be), the notarial act would have been validly made, or signed and sealed, had it been made, or signed and sealed, on the appointed date; and no legal proceedings may be instituted on or after that date on account of the notarial act having been purportedly made, or signed and sealed, in respect of which the notary public exercised the power or function through a live video link or live television link.

(4) However, a person is not to be punished for an act or omission committed before the appointed date that, but for subsection (2) or (3), would not have been an offence.

(5) In subsection (1)(b), the reference to any other notarial act is a reference to —

(a) a notarial act mentioned in section 4A(1), other than a notarial act made, or signed and sealed, in respect of a statutory declaration; or

(b) a certificate mentioned in section 4A(2) or (3).”.

### **New section 7A**

**8.** In the Notaries Public Act 1959, after section 7, insert —

---

---

**“Amendment of Schedule**

**7A.** The Chief Justice, after consultation with the Senate, may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule.”.

**New Schedule**

**9.** In the Notaries Public Act 1959, after section 8, insert —

“THE SCHEDULE

Sections 4A(1), (2) and (3) and 7A

REMOTE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES

1. Live video link
2. Live television link”.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS

**Amendment of Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966**

**10.** In the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966, delete section 109B.

**Amendment of Family Justice Act 2014**

**11.** In the Family Justice Act 2014, in section 20, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) To avoid doubt, where an oath of office is required to be taken and subscribed under subsection (1), a person may take and subscribe the oath by appearing before the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, a Supreme Court Judge or a Judicial Commissioner through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, Supreme Court Judge or Judicial Commissioner (as the case may be) to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;

- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
- (c) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”.

### **Amendment of Industrial Relations Act 1960**

**12.** In the Industrial Relations Act 1960, in section 13, after subsection (2), insert —

“(3) To avoid doubt, where an oath is required to be taken under subsection (2), a member of a Court may take the oath by appearing before the person administering the oath through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present.”.

### **Amendment of National Library Board Act 1995**

**13.** In the National Library Board Act 1995, in section 15, after subsection (2), insert —

“(3) To avoid doubt, where an oath of secrecy is required to be taken under subsection (2), a person may take the oath by appearing before the person administering the oath through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present.”.

---

---

**Amendment of Parliamentary Elections Act 1954**

**14. In the Parliamentary Elections Act 1954 —**

(a) in section 56, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) Where an oath of secrecy is required to be taken under subsection (1), any requirement in that subsection for the person taking the oath to appear before the person administering the oath is deemed satisfied if —

(a) the person taking the oath and the person administering the oath do so in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Fifth Schedule; and

(b) the electronic means of communication allows the person administering the oath to —

(i) communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;

(ii) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present; and

(iii) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”;

(b) in section 56, after subsection (7), insert —

“(8) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the Fifth Schedule.”; and

(c) after the Fourth Schedule, insert —

---

---

“FIFTH SCHEDULE

Section 56(2A) and (8)

REMOTE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES  
FOR TAKING OATH OF SECRECY

1. Live video link
2. Live television link”.

**Amendment of Police Force Act 2004**

**15.** In the Police Force Act 2004 —

- (a) renumber section 19 as subsection (1) of that section;
- (b) in section 19, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) To avoid doubt, where an oath is required to be taken under subsection (1), a police officer may take the oath by appearing before the person administering the oath through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the police officer taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
  - (b) confirm the identity of the police officer taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
  - (c) if the oath is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”;
- (c) in section 70, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) To avoid doubt, where an oath or affirmation is required to be taken under subsection (1), a person may take the oath or affirmation by appearing before the police officer administering the oath or affirmation through a live video link or live television link created using a remote

---

---

communication technology that allows the police officer administering the oath or affirmation to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath or affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or affirmation, and any interpreter present.”; and

(d) in section 92, after subsection (6), insert —

“(6A) To avoid doubt, where an oath is required to be taken under subsection (6), an auxiliary police officer may take the oath by appearing before a senior police officer through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the senior police officer to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the auxiliary police officer, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (b) confirm the identity of the auxiliary police officer and any interpreter present; and
- (c) if the oath is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”.

### **Amendment of Presidential Elections Act 1991**

**16.** In the Presidential Elections Act 1991 —

- (a) in section 5A(1), (2), (4) and (5), replace “Schedule” wherever it appears with “First Schedule”;
- (b) in section 36, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) Where an oath of secrecy is required to be taken under subsection (1), any requirement in that subsection for the person taking the oath to appear

before the person administering the oath is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the person taking the oath and the person administering the oath do so in accordance with prescribed requirements through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Second Schedule; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the person administering the oath to —
  - (i) communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
  - (ii) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
  - (iii) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”;
- (c) in section 36, after subsection (7), insert —

“(8) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the Second Schedule.”;
- (d) rename the Schedule as the First Schedule; and
- (e) after the First Schedule, insert —

## “SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 36(2A) and (8)

### REMOTE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES FOR TAKING OATH OF SECRECY

1. Live video link
2. Live television link”.



---

---

**Amendment of Probate and Administration Act 1934**

17. In the Probate and Administration Act 1934, in section 28, after subsection (2), insert —

“(3) Where an oath is required to be taken under subsection (1), any requirement for the grantee taking the oath to appear before the person administering the oath is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the grantee taking the oath and the person administering the oath do so through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as prescribed in the Family Justice Rules and in accordance with requirements prescribed therein; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the person administering the oath to —
  - (i) communicate with the grantee taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
  - (ii) confirm the identity of the grantee taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
  - (iii) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”.

**Amendment of Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972**

18.—(1) In the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 (called in this section the principal Act) —

(a) in section 87, after subsection (6), insert —

“(7) To avoid doubt, where an oath or affirmation is required to be taken or administered under subsection (1) or (2), a person may take the oath or make the affirmation by appearing before the person administering the oath or affirmation through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath or affirmation to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
  - (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present.”; and
- (b) in section 128, after subsection (4), insert —
  - “(5) To avoid doubt, where an oath or affirmation of allegiance is required to be taken under subsection (1), the president of the Military Court of Appeal may take the oath or make the affirmation by appearing before the Chief Justice through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the Chief Justice to —
    - (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
    - (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present.”.
- (2) In the principal Act —
  - (a) in the following provisions, replace “Schedule” with “First Schedule”:
    - Section 4
    - Section 61(1) and (2)
    - Section 79A(1)
    - Section 178(1) and (2);
  - (b) in section 61, in the section heading, replace “**Schedule**” with “**First Schedule**”;

- 
- 
- (c) in section 87, after subsection (7) (as inserted by subsection (1)(a)), insert —

“(8) Where an oath or affirmation is required to be administered under subsection (3), (4) or (5), any requirement in any of those subsections for the person taking the oath or making the affirmation to appear before the person administering the oath or affirmation is deemed satisfied if —

(a) the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and the person administering the oath or affirmation, do so in accordance with any requirements that may be prescribed through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Second Schedule; and

(b) the electronic means of communication allows the person administering the oath or affirmation to —

(i) communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and

(ii) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present.”;

- (d) in section 128, after subsection (5) (as inserted by subsection (1)(b)), insert —

“(6) Where an oath or affirmation is required to be administered under subsection (2) or (3), any requirement in subsection (2) or (3) for the person taking the oath or making the affirmation to appear before the president of the Military Court of Appeal is deemed satisfied if —

- (a) the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and the president of the Military Court of Appeal, do so in accordance with any requirements that may be prescribed through any electronic means of communication created by remote communication technology as set out in the Second Schedule; and
- (b) the electronic means of communication allows the president of the Military Court of Appeal to —
  - (i) communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process; and
  - (ii) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present.”;
- (e) after section 207, insert —
  - “Amendment of Second Schedule**
  - 207A.**—(1) The Armed Forces Council may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the Second Schedule.
  - (2) All orders made under subsection (1) must be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.”;
- (f) rename the Schedule as the First Schedule;
- (g) in the First Schedule (as renamed by paragraph (f)), in the Schedule reference, replace “and 178” with “, 79A(1) and 178”; and
- (h) after the First Schedule, insert —

---

---

“SECOND SCHEDULE

Sections 87(8), 128(6) and 207A(1)

REMOTE COMMUNICATION MODALITIES FOR  
TAKING OATHS OR AFFIRMATIONS

1. Live video link
2. Live television link”.

**Amendment of State Courts Act 1970**

**19.** In the State Courts Act 1970, in section 17, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) To avoid doubt, where an oath is required to be taken and subscribed under subsection (1), a person may take and subscribe the oath by appearing before the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, a Supreme Court Judge or a Judicial Commissioner through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, Supreme Court Judge or Judicial Commissioner (as the case may be) to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
- (c) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”.

**Amendment of Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969**

**20.** In the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969, in section 69 —

- (a) renumber the section as subsection (1) of that section; and
- (b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) To avoid doubt, where an oath of office is required to be taken and subscribed under subsection (1), a person may take and subscribe the

oath by appearing before the person administering the oath through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
  - (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and any interpreter present; and
  - (c) verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.”
-