

1 What is counselling?

Counselling has many approaches and aims. In general, a counsellor will attempt to work with individuals to explore strategies that are helpful in overcoming their concerns and difficulties. Depending on individuals' needs, the counsellor will provide practical, psychological and emotional support. Individuals are highly encouraged to share their issues openly with the counsellor so as to enable them to work through their issues and come up with workable solutions / alternatives to cope with their current situation.

2 How can I register for counselling?

You are strongly encouraged to approach the following agencies first before deciding to register at Syariah Court:

- 2.1 **PPIS Family Service Centre (West)**
6561 3462
- 2.2 **Jamiyah Counselling Centre**
6743 1211 (Ext 23)
- 2.3 **Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP)**
6416 3960
- 2.4 **National Helpline (Family Service Centre)**
1800 – 222 0000

3 Is there counselling at Syariah Court?

Counselling has been part of Syariah Court's divorce procedure since 1955. Whether you are applying for counselling or divorce at Syariah Court, you will be required to attend counselling at an appointed agency under the Marriage Counselling Programme (MCP). Please refer to the diagrams at Annex A.

MCP provides a safe and neutral platform for you and your spouse to discuss your marital concerns. It is the counsellors' aim to ensure that both you and your spouse are fully aware of the impact of the decision to divorce. Where necessary, access to other forms of support from other agencies will be provided to minimise the impact of marital crisis on yourself and/or your children.

In addition, both you and your spouse may request for an "asatizah" or commonly termed as "Resource Person" (RP) to obtain advice on the Islamic law concerning divorce or marriage related matters.

Do note that whatever information shared during counselling is confidential and will not be used against any party in court.

4 Do I need to pay for counselling?

Couples who are referred for counselling under MCP are not required to pay any fee but are required to attend their session on the scheduled date.

5 What is the next step after I have completed counselling?

After you have completed counselling, you are required to inform the counsellor of your decision. Syariah Court will follow up with you accordingly if your decision is to pursue divorce. No further action will be taken if both parties have decided to settle for reconciliation instead.

If your decision is to proceed with divorce, please refer to the "court procedure" brochure for details.

SYARIAH COURT SINGAPORE

Family Link @ Lengkok Bahru
8 Lengkok Bahru #03-01
Singapore 159052

Tel: 6354 8371 • Fax: 6471 6051
Website: www.syariahcourt.gov.sg

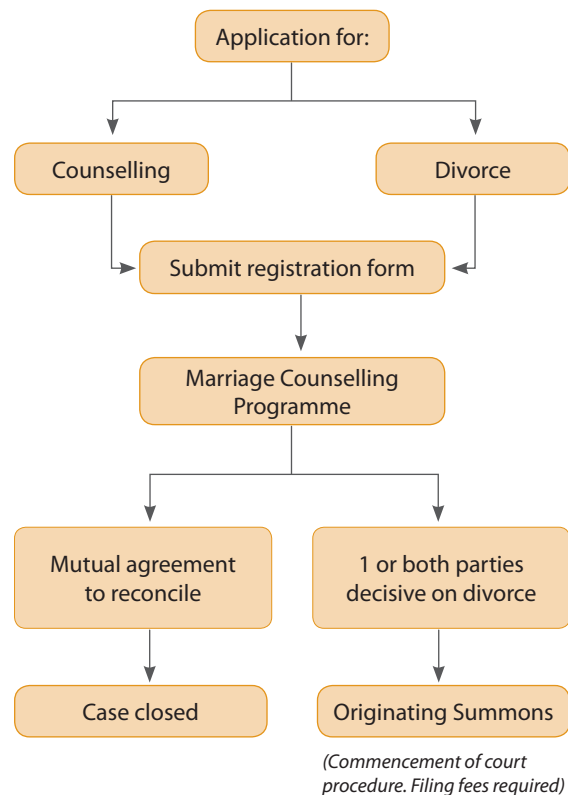
Application for

counselling

divorce at the Syariah Court



Note: This pamphlet is for your general information only. If you require more detailed information, you are advised to contact a lawyer or our hotline at 6354 8371 for general enquiries.



1 How can I apply for divorce or counselling at Syariah Court?

For divorce or counselling application, you are required to complete and submit our registration form which can be downloaded from our website at www.syariahcourt.gov.sg.

Alternatively, you may collect the registration form from our office at the following address:

Syariah Court
 Family Link @ Lengkok Bahru
 8 Lengkok Bahru #03-01
 Singapore 159052

2 What are your operating hours for divorce or counselling application?

Operating hours:
 Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 1.00pm
 2.00pm – 5.30pm
 Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm
 2.30pm – 5.30pm
 Saturday 8.30am – 1.00pm

3 Do I have to submit any supporting documents when I apply for divorce or counselling at Syariah Court?

Yes, you are required to submit the registration form with copies of the following documents:
 3.1 Marriage Certificate
 3.2 Children's birth certificates
 3.3 Your identity card / Passport

4 Will Syariah Court accept my registration form if I do not attach the supporting documents?

We will not process your registration form if the supporting documents are not attached or information provided by you in the registration form is incomplete. Your registration form will be returned to you for your completion.

5 What should I do if I have misplaced my original marriage certificate and/or children's birth certificates?

If you have misplaced your original marriage certificate, you can purchase an extract copy at the Registry of Muslim Marriages for a fee of \$40 (via nets or cash card only). You may visit the website at www.romm.gov.sg for more details.

If you have misplaced your children's original birth certificates, an extract copy may be obtained from the Immigration & Checkpoint Authority. You may visit the website at www.ica.gov.sg for more details.

6 Once I have completed the registration form and attached the supporting documents, how do I submit them to Syariah Court?

You may either send the registration form in person or by post to our office address.

7 How would I know if Syariah Court has received my registration form?

An acknowledgement notice will be sent to you to confirm receipt of your registration form. If you do not receive the acknowledgement notice, your registration form may not have reached us.

The acknowledgement notice should reach you by post within a week from the receipt date of your registration form.

8 What happens after I have received the acknowledgement notice from Syariah Court?

You will receive a letter from us within the next 4 to 6 weeks. The letter provides details of the appointed agency that you need to approach for counselling.

9 Do I need to attend counselling?

Counselling has been part of Syariah Court's divorce procedure since 1955. You are only allowed to file an Originating Summons for divorce after attending counselling at Syariah Court's appointed agency.

Failure to attend counselling for whatever reason will result in your case being automatically closed.

10 What if my spouse does not wish to attend counselling?

As an applicant, you are still required to attend counselling even if your spouse refuses to do so. We will advise you accordingly on the next course of action after you have attended the counselling session.

For further details on counselling, please refer to information on the Marriage Counselling Programme (MCP).

11 Is there payment for submission of my registration form for divorce or counselling?

Payment is not required when you submit your registration form either for divorce or counselling.

Annex A

Overview of Syariah Court's Marriage Counselling Programme Process

