

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Government's response to the recommendations by the Committee?

The Government will study the recommendations made by the Committee, while considering the public's views on these recommendations.

2. Why is MSF and MinLaw holding this public consultation?

The Ministry of Law (MinLaw) and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) are holding this public consultation to invite members of the public to provide their views on the proposed recommendations by the Committee to Review and Enhance Reforms in the Family Justice System ("RERF Committee").

This is important as the views from the public can help MinLaw and MSF to ascertain what can be done to improve the family justice process and how families in distress can be better supported.

3. What will be done with the feedback after the public consultation is over?

MinLaw and MSF will consolidate and consider the feedback received, together with the recommendations by the RERF Committee.

4. When will MSF and MinLaw implement the recommendations? What is the timeline?

MSF and MinLaw will plan on how to best implement the recommendations later, after the public consultation is over. The timeline will depend on the volume and nature of the feedback received, the ideas that we decide to implement, and the resources that are available for implementation.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND ENHANCE REFORMS IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE SYSTEM (RERF COMMITTEE)

1. The Committee to **Review and Enhance Reforms** in the **Family Justice System** (or the RERF Committee) is an inter-agency committee that was formed in November 2017. It builds on the work of the Committee for Family Justice, which culminated in the enactment of the Family Justice Act and the establishment of the Family Justice Courts on 1 October 2014.
2. The RERF Committee's recommendations aim to further strengthen the family justice system by incorporating principles of therapeutic and restorative justice in the resolution of family disputes. This includes promoting the use of multi-disciplinary approaches and processes (e.g. counselling, mediation and conciliation), to resolve family disputes outside the court which minimises the need for families to undergo litigation. The emphasis is on healing relationships and re-opening communication channels between family members caught in acrimonious disputes, to achieve more sustained and positive family outcomes.
3. The RERF Committee is co-chaired by Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts Justice Debbie Ong, Permanent Secretary for the Minister of Law Mr Ng How Yue and Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Social and Family Development Mr Chew Hock Yong.
4. Other members of the Committee are:
 - Professor Leslie Chew, SC, Dean School of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences
 - Mr Vincent Hoong, Judicial Commissioner, Supreme Court
 - Dr Sudha Nair, Executive Director, Promoting Alternatives to Violence
 - Mr Sim Gim Guan, Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Social Service
 - Mr Alfred Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Children's Society
 - Ms Michelle Woodworth, Co-chairperson of the Family Law Practice Committee, The Law Society of Singapore
5. For more information, please refer to <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/content/minlaw/en/news/announcements/committee-to-review-and-enhance-reforms-in-the-family-justice-system.html>.