



# DISPUTE RESOLUTION SCHEMES

## **Addendum to the Law Society Mediation Rules for the mediation of disputes under the Ministry of Law Re-Align Framework**

In December 2020, the Ministry of Law requested that the Law Society of Singapore assist in the mediation of disputes between small- and micro-businesses that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 by providing mediation services through the Law Society Mediation Scheme (LSMS).

This Addendum to the Law Society Mediation Rules is applicable to matters referred to the Law Society Mediation Scheme by the Ministry of Law via the Re-Align Framework. Where arrangements for the mediation are not specified in this Addendum, the Law Society Mediation Rules shall apply.

### **1. COMMENCEMENT OF A MEDIATION**

1.1 For parties who wish to commence a claim under the LSMS via the Re-Align Framework, they may do so by:

- (a) Submitting a completed Request for Mediation form via email to [represent@lawsoc.org.sg](mailto:represent@lawsoc.org.sg); and
- (b) paying the required non-refundable administration fee.

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR**

2.1 This section shall be applied in place of Article 4 of the Law Society Mediation Rules for matters referred to the Law Society Mediation by the Ministry of Law via the Re-Align Framework.

2.2 The LSMS Panel of Mediators consists of Senior and Associate Mediators. For the purposes of Re-Align Framework matters, there is to be no distinction between Senior and Associate Mediators and the pool of mediators that may be considered for these matters will henceforth be referred to as LSMS Mediators.<sup>1</sup>

2.3 After receiving a completed Request for Mediation form AND the payment of the required non-refundable administration fee from each party, the President shall appoint an LSMS Mediator as soon as practicable.

2.4 An LSMS Mediator shall be appointed to matters regardless of the value of the claim.

2.5 Where the parties have nominated a LSMS Mediator, the President may consider the parties' nomination when appointing the LSMS Mediator. However, the President shall make the final

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<sup>1</sup> The Law Society of Singapore will permit Senior and Associate Mediators to opt-in to be considered for appointment to matters that are referred to the LSMS under the Re-Align Framework.

decision on the appointment of the LSMS Mediator and such decision shall not be subject to any review whatsoever.

### 3. FEES SCHEDULE

3.1 This section shall be applied in place of Article 1(b) of the Fees Schedule of the Law Society Mediation Rules.

3.2 The Law Society of Singapore acknowledges the disruption COVID-19 may have had on business operations and the intention of the Re-Align Framework. To that end, the LSMS Fees Schedule for disputes that are referred by the Ministry of Law via the Re-Align Framework will be as follows:

<b>Sum in dispute</b>	<b>Half-Day Mediation Fees (per party, per block of four hours)</b>	<b>Full-Day Mediation Fees (per party, per block of nine hours)</b>
<b>Up to \$10,000</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>
<b>Above \$10,000 up to \$60,000</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>	<b>\$280.00</b>
<b>Above \$60,000 up to \$100,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>
<b>Above \$100,000 up to \$250,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$562.50</b>
<b>Above \$250,000 up to \$500,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$1050.00</b>
<b>Above \$500,000 up to \$1,000,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$1,425.00</b>
<b>Above \$1,000,000 up to \$2,500,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$1875.00</b>
<b>Above \$2,500,000 up to \$5,000,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$2,250.00</b>
<b>Above \$5,000,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$2,625.00</b>

3.3 Additional Mediation Fees shall be payable where any mediation session goes beyond 6:00pm. Such fees shall be payable by each party at the rate of S\$200 per party for each block of two hours or part thereof.

3.4 LSMS mediations are required to be held via video-conference for matters where the sum in dispute does not exceed \$10,000.00.

3.5 LSMS mediations may be held in-person or via video-conference for matters where the sum in dispute exceeds \$10,000.00. Parties will bear the cost of hiring the venue for the mediation sessions held in-person.

#### **4. CONTACT**

4.1 If parties have any questions about the arrangements for mediation or LSMS they may contact the Law Society Secretariat at [represent@lawsoc.org.sg](mailto:represent@lawsoc.org.sg).

#### **5. VALIDITY OF ADDENDUM**

5.1 This Addendum is valid from 31 December 2020 for a duration of 4 months.