

FACTSHEET ON THE PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT COURT

OVERVIEW

The Protection from Harassment (Amendment) Bill 2019 was passed by Parliament on 7 May 2019. This Bill aims to strengthen the Protection from Harassment Act (POHA) by introducing amendments to enhance protection for victims of harassment and falsehoods as well as make it faster and easier for victims to obtain remedies under POHA.

ABOUT THE PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT COURT

The Protection from Harassment Court (PHC) is a specialised court which hears all matters under the POHA. Its aim is to provide a one-stop solution for victims to receive holistic and effective relief.

POWERS

All the criminal and civil jurisdiction of a District Court.

TYPES OF CASES TO BE HEARD

Generally, all harassment claims.

Proceedings in other Courts might be transferred to the PHC, if there are related matters which should be dealt with together.

TYPES OF CASES THAT MAY NOT BE HEARD

Harassment claims that are related to other civil or family proceedings which the PHC thinks would be more justly, expeditiously and economically disposed of in another court.

TYPES OF REMEDIES

For Harassment:

- Protection Order
- Expedited Protection Order
- Mandatory Treatment Order (if a PO is granted)
- Damages

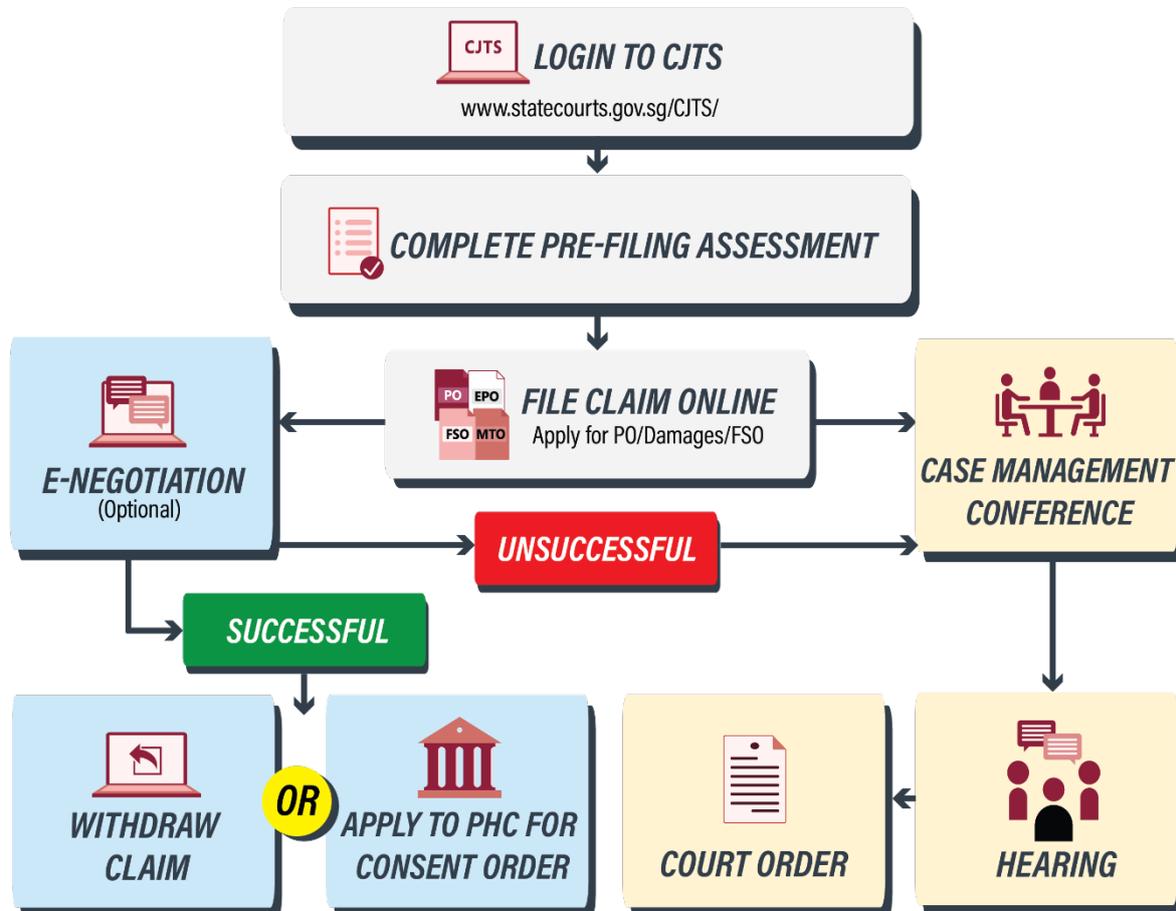
For False Statements:

- False Statement Orders:
 - Stop Publication Order
 - Correction Order
 - Disabling Order
 - Targeted Correction Order
 - General Correction Order
- Interim false statement order(s)
(only if the corresponding false statement order is also applied for):
 - Interim Stop Publication Order
 - Interim Notification Order
 - Interim Disabling Order
 - Targeted Interim Notification Order

SIMPLIFIED PROCEEDINGS

FILING OF HARASSMENT CLAIMS

- on Community Justice and Tribunals System (CJTS) -



Eligibility

Claims that may be made under the simplified proceedings must:

- ✓ Involve only one claimant
- ✓ Involve no more than five respondents
- ✓ Be brought within two years from the date that the cause of action is accrued
- ✓ Not include a claim for damages exceeding \$20,000

OTHER OPTIONS FOR INITIATING PROCEEDINGS UNDER POHA

- **Commence standard proceedings:** Parties can file a civil claim if the claim is not eligible to be made under the simplified proceedings. They may do so on eLitigation, either via a lawyer or in person at the CrimsonLogic Service Bureau.
- **Pursue criminal action:** Parties can file a Magistrate's Complaint for directions by the Magistrate or commence private prosecution against the other party. They may do either through a lawyer (on the Integrated Case Management System) or by filing an online form which can be accessed from the [State Courts website](#).

Visit the State Courts [website](#) for more information on these options.