



CoViD-19 and Access Arrangements For Your Children

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has presented a formidable challenge globally in all aspects of an individual's daily life.

On 3 April 2020, the Singapore Government announced a number of 'Circuit Breaker' measures to minimise the further spread of Covid-19. These heightened safe distancing measures were put in place for a period of 4 weeks from 7 April 2020 to 4 May 2020 (both dates inclusive), with workplace premises largely closed for this period, save for essential services and their related supply chains. Measures were also put in place for the closure of recreational venues, attractions and places of worship, and individuals told to stay home as much as possible, to further curb the outbreak.

The Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 was passed on 7 April 2020 as a response, to provide temporary measures to deal with matters relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In connection with these measures, the [Ministry of Health \(MOH\)](#) released guidelines in 9 April 2020, stating that children of divorced parents were allowed to take turns to live with either parent, but to keep movement and travel to a minimum.

Unfortunately, this resulted in a number of custodial parents restricting access, on the premise of limiting their children's exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

To address these shortfalls, further amendments have since been made to the relevant legislature as of 10 April 2020. These include additional measures to allow for an individual to leave his/her ordinary place of residence, as follows:

- *to transfer temporary custody or care of a child pursuant to any agreement regarding the access rights of a parent of the child, or in discharge of a legal obligation; or*
- *to the extent necessary to comply with an order of a court or direction given in exercise of a power under any written law.*

As such, access arrangements under the latest amendments are now allowed to take place. However, individuals should nonetheless bear in mind to keep movement and travel to a minimum where possible, to lower the risk of any transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

For more information on your access rights in light of Covid-19, please contact us at +65 6235 2700, fciambella@consiliumlaw.com.sg or spencer@consiliumlaw.com.sg, and we will be happy to assist you.