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## **MEDICAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO PATIENTS WHO ARE MEDICALLY UNFIT TO ATTEND COURT/JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

*(Based on an extract from the Subordinate Courts Practice Direction No. 3 of 1997)*

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The Registrar of the Subordinate Courts has requested the SMA to inform its members that a medical certificate seeking to excuse a patient (accused, witness, party to a civil/family/other proceedings) or any advocate and solicitor/prosecutor) from court/judicial proceedings in the Subordinate Courts should:

1. clearly identify the name of the medical practitioner who issued the certificate and the name of the hospital or clinic from which it was issued;
2. bear the full signature of the medical practitioner and not just his initials;
3. be authenticated by a rubber stamp showing the medical practitioner's full name and particulars;
4. contain the diagnosis of the patient concerned (unless the diagnosis cannot be/should not normally be disclosed);
5. contain a statement to the effect that the patient is medically unfit to attend court/judiciary proceedings;
6. clearly specify the period and the date(s) that the patient would be medically unfit to attend court/judicial proceedings; and
7. in all cases, contain particulars which are clearly and legibly printed.

The requirements of the Registrar of Subordinate Courts are consistent with those stated in the circular dated 3 March 1994 from the Singapore Medical Council, a copy of which is attached.

If any information required in (4) to (6) listed above is not spelt out in the medical certificate and/or where the doctor wishes to explain or elaborate to the Court the condition or incapacity of the patient, a **memorandum** should be annexed to the medical certificate.

The memorandum should be addressed to the Judge or Magistrate of either the Subordinate Courts or Supreme Courts, whichever is applicable and **NOT** "To whom it may concern".

If the patient is unable to furnish the name of the Judge or the Magistrate, the memorandum could be addressed to "**The Judge/Magistrate of Subordinate Courts**" or "**The Judge/Magistrate of Supreme Courts**", whichever is applicable.

**If the requirements listed in this circular are NOT complied with,  
the judge/registrar may DECLINE TO EXCUSE the non-attendance of the patient.**