Press Release

Singapore Academy of Law strengthens document integrity with mandatory authentication

Recipients can now verify the authenticity of notarised documents online

Singapore, 20 September 2019 — From Tuesday, 1 October 2019, all documents that require notarisation[1] will have to be authenticated by the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL). This follows changes to the Singapore Academy of Law (Amendment) Rules 2019 and the Notaries Public (Amendment) Rules 2019, which take effect that day. The revised procedure will strengthen document integrity and prevent cases of fraudulent notarial and authentication certificates.

"The new rule will ensure that all notarised documents originate from appointed notaries who comply with the Notaries Public Rules," said Ms Serene Wee, Chief Executive, SAL. "With mandatory authentication by SAL, parties receiving these documents can be assured that they are validly certified by a genuine notary."

SAL appoints and regulates about 700 Notaries Public who are licensed to notarise documents. These licences have a one-year validity, safeguarding the integrity of the notarisation system. As an added measure, SAL will also set up an eRegister of all documents certified by these appointed notaries. From 1 October 2019, members of the public and recipients of notarised documents can log on to **https://legalisation.sal.sg** to verify the authenticity of notarial certificates. Notaries thus no longer need to keep physical records of their notarised documents.

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[1] The need for notarisation is determined by the party receiving the documents. Where notarisation is required by said party, these documents will have to be authenticated by SAL.

The same-day authentication service will cost S$85.60 (incl. GST) per notarial certificate, a sum payable to SAL. These charges are separate from fees payable to Notaries Public for the notarisation of documents. Authentication can be completed at the SAL Counter, located at:

Singapore Academy of Law

1 Coleman Street

#08-06, The Adelphi

Singapore 179803

Authentication can be completed on-the-spot, which means users only have to make one trip to the SAL Counter—instead of two previously. Following this, an authentication certificate will be issued. Documents without this certificate will no longer be accepted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign embassies and consulates in Singapore. Members of the public can call **6332-4388** for greater clarity on the authentication process.

ENDS

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About the Singapore Academy of Law

SAL is a promotion and development agency for Singapore's legal industry. Our vision is to make Singapore the legal hub of Asia. Our mandates are to build up the intellectual capital of the legal profession by enhancing legal knowledge, raise the international profile of Singapore law, promote Singapore as a centre for dispute resolution, and improve the standards and efficiency of legal practice through continuing professional development and the use of technology. As a body established by statute, SAL also undertakes statutory functions such as stakeholding services and appointment of Senior Counsel, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public. More information can be found at www.sal.org.sg