



Index Reference :

Solicitors

CIRCULAR 26-458 (COM)

30 July 2026

26-458 (COM) Practising Certificate (Special Conditions) Rules

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Practising Certificate (2027)

1. The “Notice of Intention to Apply for a Practising Certificate” (the “Notice”) required under Section 5 of the Practising Certificates (Special Conditions) Rules (the “Rules”) is not an application for a practising certificate.
2. The Notice should be completed and declared **only if**:
 - (a) you are applying for the issue of a practising certificate for the first time;
 - (b) you have been censured or ordered to pay a penalty or costs by the Solicitor Disciplinary Tribunal since you were last issued a practising certificate;
 - (c) you have failed or refused to give the Law Society a sufficient and satisfactory explanation in respect of any matter relating to your conduct when invited to do so since you were last issued a practising certificate, and have been notified in writing by the Law Society that you have so failed or refused;
 - (d) you have been suspended from practice since you were last issued a practising certificate and the period of your suspension has expired;
 - (e) you have had your name removed from, or struck off, the Roll of Solicitors since you were last issued a practising certificate and your name has been restored to the Roll of Solicitors;
 - (f) you have become bankrupt since you were last issued a practising certificate and have been discharged;
 - (g) you have had a monetary judgment (not being a judgment excepted under the Rules) given against you since you were last issued a practising certificate;
 - (h) you have not been in full-time practice of law for two continuous years immediately prior to the giving of notice of your intention to apply for a practising certificate (see Circular [04-310 \(SD\)](#) for details); or



- (i) you were a principal in, or consultant of, a firm at the time of an intervention of the firm by the Law Society during the preceding 18 months.
3. Solicitors to whom the Rules apply must give the Law Society at least 6 weeks' notice before applying for a practising certificate. You are encouraged to return the completed Notice to the Law Society **by 18 September 2026**, and in any event, **by 16 October 2026**.
4. Blank copies of the Notice may be obtained from the Law Society or downloaded from the Law Society's website by clicking [here](#). Please click [here](#) for the Notes on How to Fill in the Notice.
5. Late submission of the Notice may delay the processing of your practising certificate application and result in the practising certificate bearing its actual date of issue rather than being backdated. Members are reminded that the Standing Committee on Compliance takes a very serious view of practising without a valid practising certificate.
6. The Notice should be declared before a solicitor of another firm or company in order to comply with Principle 13.09 of 'The Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct Volume 1, 3rd Edition. Please refer to [Principle 13.09](#) for details.
7. The Rules came into effect in February 2003. Please refer to Circulars [03-29\(SD\)](#) and [04-310\(SD\)](#) for details.