

NOTES ON HOW TO FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM FOR A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

IMPORTANT

A checklist for renewal of practising certificate. Please return the following:

1. a completed Application for Practising Certificate form (signed and dated);
2. the portion of the pay-in slip marked "Society copy" (after payment);
3. a Statement of Compliance with CPD and RME Requirements – Solicitors; and
4. a Notice of Intention to Apply for a Practising Certificate (signed and declared) if your application falls within any of the circumstances listed on Circular 20-386 (COM) (including any absence from full-time practice of law for a period of more than 6 months in aggregate during the 2 continuous years immediately prior to the giving of the Notice with reference to Circular 04-310 (SD)).

Questions 1 and 2

The details printed on the form are the details currently recorded with the Society. Please amend if necessary.

The Law Society will only recognise a change of name after an application to the High Court had been made to amend the Roll of Solicitors by a change of name and the name has been changed on the Roll. Any change of your name since your last practising certificate will not be recognized unless the above procedure has been followed.

Question 2A

Solicitors to whom the Practising Certificate (Special Conditions) Rules apply must give at least 6 weeks' notice to the Law Society when applying for their practising certificates. Please see the Law Society Circular 20-386 (COM). Please tick the last box if you are not required to do so.

Question 3

Tick all the appropriate boxes if you currently have more than one place of business or employment.

Question 4

The names of your **current** firms or employers must be included.

Question 5

If you have commenced or ceased to practise on your own account or in partnership in Hong Kong between 1st November 2019 and 31st October 2020, please complete Question 5. Otherwise, please cross out the whole question.

Question 6

All solicitors engaged in private practice are required to maintain an indemnity under the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules. The indemnity is maintained by the payment of the contributions specified in the Rules. All principals are required to pay a contribution on behalf of themselves, the assistant solicitors and the consultants working in their firms. Any queries about payment of the contributions should be made to the managing partner of your firm.

For solicitors who are employed by non-solicitor employers, please refer to Practice Direction N and ensure compliance with it wherever applicable. With the coming into operation of the Practice Direction on 1 June 2007, the general and specific waivers granted previously by the Council have lapsed on the same day. Accordingly, the last two boxes under Question 6 are no longer applicable and need not to be answered. Any queries relating to this Question should be directed to the Assistant Director, Regulation & Guidance at 2846-8817.

Enquiries

General enquiries regarding how to fill in the application form should be directed to the Registration Officer at 2846-0554.

Specific enquiries regarding the Continuing Professional Development Scheme and the Risk Management Education should be directed to the Standards and Development Department at 2846-0567.

Personal Information Collection Statement

The personal data collected in this form (“the data”) will be used by the Law Society of Hong Kong (“the Society”) for exercising its powers under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Chapter 159) and all relevant legislations to consider whether you should be issued a practising certificate and to administer and enforce the provisions of the said Ordinance and applicable legislations, rules and regulations. The data will also be used by the Society for communication purposes and in carrying out its functions pursuant to its Memorandum and Articles of Association and for the compilation of The Law List which is published for the purpose of facilitating the public and members of the Society in identifying and locating solicitors, foreign lawyers and law firms registered with the Society and in knowing the services they provide.

It is obligatory for you to supply the data requested in this form. The consequence for you if you fail to supply the data is that the Society will not be able to process your application for a practising certificate.

The data may be provided to such persons within the Society whose proper business it is to have access to and assist in the processing of your application and related matters. In the course of carrying out the afore-mentioned purposes the Society may also provide the data to other persons who may facilitate the Society in carrying out the purposes mentioned above or who are in a position to verify the veracity and accuracy of the data provided by you including the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, law enforcement agencies, judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

You have the right to request access to and correction of the data. Any such request should be addressed to the Secretary General, the Law Society of Hong Kong, 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong. The Privacy Policy Statement of the Society is available on its website at www.hklawsoc.org.hk.