# Client Due Diligence Form (“CDD Form”)

# For Legal Professionals

# Natural PersonS

*Revised: June 2023*

This CDD Form is designed to provide Members with examples and practical applications showing how the CDD, including client risk assessment requirements contained in the Practice Direction P (“PDP”) and the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Ordinance (Cap. 615) (“AMLO”), may be met by legal practitioners. In particular, legal practitioners must have established adequate CDD procedures, including client and matter level risk assessment to identify and manage risks associated with Money Laundering (“ML”), Terrorist Financing (“TF”) and Proliferation Financing (“PF”). Therefore, this form was designed to serve as a practical example of how the client risk assessment could be undertaken and documented.

The CDD Form is a learning tool only and it is not a prescribed requirement or a formal guideline. In particular, as there are different ways to meet the PDP and AMLO requirements, the examples stated in the CDD Form may differ from the existing practices of law firms, especially those with an established AML framework. As such, the CDD Form is not intended to compel, suggest or advise changes to those existing practices.

The CDD Form is designed to produce an AML risk rating score based on a number of factors that would assist legal practitioners with classifying clients as Low / Medium / High to understand what level of CDD is required to be applied (Simplified/Standard/Enhanced). When weighting risk factors, legal practitioners should take a holistic approach and make an informed judgement about the relevance of different risk factors in the context of a particular client relationship or occasional matter. The weight given to each factor is likely to vary across practices, clients and matters, the high-risk triggers included in the CDD Form are not exhaustive and legal practitioners should consider all individual AML risks applicable to each client or matter. There is no prescribed approach to conducting client risk assessments, however they must be written down, monitored and refreshed depending on the client’s risk rating categorization to reflect changing risks or information about the client.

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| **Client Name:** |  | | | **Date of Record:** |  |
| **Subject Matter:** |  | | | **Matter No:** |  |
| **New Client:** | □ Yes □ No | **Existing Client:** | □ Yes □ No |  | |

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| **For Existing Clients ONLY** | Previous AML Risk Rating:  (Legal practitioners should at least keep a clear record of clients rated as High-risk or to whom Enhanced Due Diligence measures were applied ). | □ High □ Medium □ Low |
| Was the CDD information refreshed from the date of last client screening or service provided?  (Frequency of client screening (on-going monitoring) is subject to risk-based approach adopted by the legal practitioner).  **Note**: For existing clients who have not been in contact with the Practice for a significant period of time (anything above a year may be considered a significant gap in relation to those clients or transactions assessed as higher-risk), you should consider refreshing the CDD information. The CDD information must be always refreshed/reviewed when a transaction / new client matter is:   1. by virtue of the amount or nature of the transaction, unusual or suspicious; or 2. not consistent with the legal professional’s knowledge of the client or the client’s business or risk profile, or client’s source of funds. | □ Yes □ No\* |
| Date of the last CDD refresh / on-going monitoring and action taken:  To check whether:   * transaction(s) (including new services/instructions) are consistent with the client’s information; * client CDD data, documents and information are relevant and kept up-to-date.   If CDD refresh not required, specify the reason: | |

**\*Note**: *If not, please contact the client to verify if there are any changes to the client’s information or circumstances initially provided. Based on the information obtained from the client, conduct client screening (if required). After completion, please attach the review result in the client file.*

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| **Intermediaries** | Did you rely on the client’s information and verification conducted by any of the specified intermediaries as defined in Section 18, Division 4, Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the AMLO? For example:   * an oversees office of your firm; * an accounting professional; * a notary public; * a tax advisor; * an estate agent; * other legal professional/law firm; * a TCSP licensee; * a financial institution that is an authorized institution; * a licensed corporation; * an authorized insurer; * a licensed individual insurance agent; or * a licensed insurance agency or licensed insurance broker company.   **Note**: You can rely on the Know Your Customer (KYC) work performed by the above intermediaries only if:   1. it is registered, licensed or regulated under the local law of a jurisdiction that is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); 2. it has measures in place to ensure compliance with the AML /CTF requirements similar to those imposed under the AMLO; and 3. it is supervised for compliance with those requirements by an authority in that jurisdiction that performs functions similar to those of any of the relevant authorities in Hong Kong or the Law Society of Hong Kong. | | □ Yes\* □ No |
| **Details of Intermediary** | Name of Intermediary: | Country of Incorporation / Residence (if individual): | |
| Intermediary is a Legal Professional / Auditor / Financial Institution / Others \*(Select where applicable)  Details of Others: | | |

*\****Note***: If yes, you must obtain copies of the client identification and verification documents from the specified intermediary and keep as a record in the client file. Where the intermediary is an overseas office of the firm, you must in all circumstances obtain client’s ID information, and have an access to copies of other client identification and verification documents upon request.*

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| **PART A (1): Client Identification for Natural Person - Applicable to all clients** | | | | | |
| English Name: | | Chinese Name (if any): | | | Date of Birth: |
| ID Card / Passport: | | Nationality: | | | Occupation / Business Nature: |
| Contact No.: | | Email Address: | | | Fax No.: |
| Residential Address: | | | Document(s) obtained to verify proof of address:   * Utility bill * Bank Statement * Letter from a governmental body * Other: | | |
| Identification document  obtained to verify client’s identity: | | * Hong Kong Permanent ID Card * National ID Card issued by a sovereign authority showing Nationality * Passport issued by a sovereign authority * Non-permanent Hong Kong ID card and Passport issued by a sovereign authority * Other: | | | |
| **Information required for transactions falling within the definition of “Applicable Circumstance”:**   * Financial transactions such as buying and selling of real estate, business, company, securities and other assets and property * Managing client money, securities or other assets * Management of bank, savings or securities accounts * The formation, structure, re-organisation, operation or management of companies and other entities and legal arrangements * Insolvency cases and tax advice * Other transactions involving custody of funds by law firms as stakeholder or escrow agent or transfers of funds through their bank accounts | | | | | |
| Nature and purpose of the transaction / legal service:  (Details of parties to the transaction and their business relationship with the client (explain which party will transfer/receive funds and which party will cover legal fees). Where funds are expected to be received from a Third-Party on behalf of the client, explain why and the source of funds) | | | | | |
| Source of Funds (SoF) for the transaction:  **Note**: You must understand:   * the account from which the funds were transferred (Client’s/Third-Party bank account, foreign bank located in a high-risk jurisdiction, HK bank); and * the activity that was involved in generating/accumulating those funds.   You should seek evidence in a higher-risk scenario and when the SoF is unclear. | Where did the funds originated from (from which bank account and jurisdiction (Client’s or a Third-Party)? Please specify | | | What activity generated the funds?   * Employment Income * Sale of real estate / business * Inheritance * Share sales/dividends * Pension release * Loan Drawdown * Business income * Rental Income * Savings * Gift * Sale of Asset(s) * Gambling winnings * Compensation * Others: | |

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| **PART A (2): Particulars of Individual Purporting to Act on Behalf of The Client** | | | | |
| English Name: | Chinese Name (if any): | | | Date of Birth: |
| ID Card / Passport No.: | Nationality: | | | Acting capacity: |
| Contact No.: | Email Address: | | | Fax No.: |
| Residential Address: | | | Correspondence Address (if different): | |
| The following documents were obtained to verify whether the individual (intermediary, agent, representative) is authorized to act on behalf of the client: | | * A Board Resolution or similar written authority (e.g. list of authorised signatories) authorising the person to give instructions * Power of Attorney * Letter of Appointment * Estates: Death certificate * Grant of probate or Letter of Administration (if applicable) * Written confirmation from the client * Confirmation from a trustee acting in a professional capacity * Confirmation from a trust company managing the trust * Other: | | |
| The following identity documents were obtained to verify the identity of the intermediary, agent, representative: | | * Hong Kong Permanent ID Card * National ID Card issued by a sovereign authority showing Nationality * Passport issued by a sovereign authority * Non-Permanent Hong Kong ID card and Passport issued by a sovereign authority * Other: | | |
| **Note**: Subject to risk-based approach, you may screen client’s representative against Sanctions and PEP lists | | | | |
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| **PART A (3): VERIFICATION OF CLIENT’S INFORMATION – applies to “Applicable Circumstances” only** | | | | |
| Methods of verification:  **Face-to-Face** - The original identity document must be presented to the legal practitioner and a copy of that document should be made during the Face-to-Face meeting with the practitioner before accepting instructions. If copies are provided, originals should be sighted as soon as practicable after accepting the instructions, if it is necessary not to interrupt the normal conduct of business and any risk of ML/TF/PF after accepting instructions is effectively managed.  **Non-Face-to-Face** – Where it has not been possible to verify the documents in a face to face meeting, the client can:   1. Provide certified copies of the documents, with the certification completed by acceptable identity agent. An acceptable certified document is one that is certified by:  * a Notary Public * a Legal Practitioner * a Certified Public Accountant (practising) * a Chartered Secretary * a Justice of Peace * a Consular or Embassy officer of the client’s home country  1. If certified document cannot be obtained, you should attempt to verify the identity of the client by alternative means, for example through a credit reference agency, information service or government-issued correspondence. | | | | |
| **Electronic verification** - Where it has not been possible to verify the documents via an acceptable identity agent you can either:   1. Use client identity verification software which allows you to undertake client checks remotely and securely, making it easier to maintain records for audit. The third-party solution should be a reliable, independent system with appropriate built-in information security protocols which will help mitigate fraud risks, and should include technology elements such as: (i) authentication of identity documents (HK ID card or passport); (ii) facial recognition; and (iii) liveness detection. Firms may also use “digital identification system” recognized by the Law Society e.g. the iAM Smart. 2. Use video conferencing tools (such as Skype, Zoom or FaceTime, WhatsApp or WeChat) to undertake manual identification and verification, the following procedure can be considered:  * Request that the client sends you a clear image of their passport / ID document using a suitably secure means, such as encrypted email; * Arrange to video call the client. During this call, ask the client to hold the passport / ID document to their face. By checking the digital copy along and comparing the image of the client with the passport / ID document, you should be satisfied that they are one and the same before proceeding; * Capture screenshot of the client holding his passport / ID document to their face, you should date and attach a copy of that screenshot, including a copy of the client’s passport / ID document initially provided, in the client file; or * You can require a client to provide a clear, front-view ‘selfie’ of themselves that can be compared with the scanned or photographed copies of identification documents. Call the client to ask questions about their identification, their reason for requesting the service or other questions that would assist in ascertaining whether the client is who they claim to be; * In addition to the passport / ID document, ask the client to provide you with a digital copy of their valid proof(s) of address; and * Ensure that you document the rationale for adopting your revised identification and verification measures in Part B: Risk Assessment and to risk grade the relationship accordingly.   Please refer to *Alternative Processes to Verify a Client’s Identity* guidefor further examples. | | | | |

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| **PART B: Risk Assessment** | | |
| Is the client’s or representative’s name listed on the sanctions, terrorist or terrorist associates lists?  <https://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/en/policies/united-nations-security-council-sanctions.html>  <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>  **Note**: If yes, please complete Part G directly  Attach all documents on screening and searches performed (if any) in the client file. | Prohibited relationship | |
| Is the client or representative a Politically Exposed Person (“PEP”)?  \*After completion of the client risk assessment, consideration should be given to determine the level of Enhanced Client Due Diligence. In the case of a “HK-PEP” and an “International Organisation PEP”, the suggested rating may be reduced if the PEP poses a low risk taking into account the risk factors set out in para 121 of the PDP.  **Note**: If yes, please complete Part E, F and G | □ Yes (15)\* | □ No (0) |
| Is the client or representative from, or residing in, a High-Risk jurisdiction or jurisdiction with strategic AML / CTF deficiencies identified by FATF?  Note: List of FATF’s country risk ratings can be accessed here:  https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/  https://www.knowyourcountry.com/copy-of-country-reports    List of High-Risk jurisdictions identified by the United Nations Security Council:  [United Nations Security Council Sanctions - Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (cedb.gov.hk)](https://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/en/policies/united-nations-security-council-sanctions.html)  Other resources to help in identifying High-Risk jurisdictions:  Basel AML Index [Basel AML Index | Basel Institute on Governance (baselgovernance.org)](https://baselgovernance.org/basel-aml-index)  Corporate Tax Haven Index [2021 ranking (taxjustice.net)](https://cthi.taxjustice.net/en/cthi/cthi-2021-results)  Corruption Perception Index [Corruption Perceptions Index - Explore the… - Transparency.org](https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021)  \*If the client is from or resides in a High-Risk jurisdiction **and** there are other risk factors present, please complete Part F and G.  **Note**: The fact that the client is linked to a High-risk jurisdiction does not mean, the client is suspicious or you should turn the client away. It means the risks of ML / TF are higher and you should apply adequate checks to mitigate those risks. | □ High Risk Country (15)\* | □ Medium Risk Country (4) |
| Non-Face-to-Face client identification?  (Suggested rating can be reduced if there are legitimate reasons for not being able to meet the client considering any geographic/jurisdictional risks this may present).  **Rationale:**  **Note**: Please ensure that at least the first payment to the client account is carried out through an account opened in the client’s name with a Hong Kong bank or an institution that is incorporated or established in the jurisdiction that is a compliant member of the FATF. | □ Yes (15) | □ No (0) |
| Does the client intend to use a Third-Party bank account or cash for transactional purposes?  **Rationale**:  **Note**: Appropriate checks should be made and the rationale for any payments into client account by the Third-Party is clearly understood before any such payments are accepted. You should seek identification document(s) and enquiry into sources of funding from that Third-Party and be alerted to warning signs.  You should consider establishing a policy of never accepting cash payments. If this is unavoidable, you could set a limit above which you will not accept cash payments or should considerer cash payments as a high risk particularly where large in size. | □ Yes (15) | □ No (0) |

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| **PART C: NATURE OF CLIENT’S OCCUPATION / BUSINESS** | | |
| The client owns more than 25% of shares, is a partner, director, authorized signatory, senior executive or financial controller in any of the higher-risk sectors listed below:   * **Charity**, **Foundation**, **Non-profit organisation**, **Non-governmental organisation** that exhibits high risk characteristics * **Third Party Payment Processors** (TPPPs), **Money Service Business** (MBS) (companies offering services involving money/currency, money transfer, cheque cashing, and issuing or selling travelers cheque) * **Government** or **State-Owned Bodies** that exhibit high risk characteristics * **High Value Products** – Dealers/traders in precious metals, gems, jewelry, or art & antiques * **Cash Intensive** – Money changer, Pawnshop, Privately owned ATMs/teller machines, Vending machine operators, Restaurants, Bars, Parking garages, Beauty/Hair Salons, Massage parlor, Taxi and limousine drivers * **Entertainment** – Casinos, Karaoke, Night clubs, Pubs, Gambling operators * **Business Services** – Fund Manager, Custodian, Trustee, Unlicensed Money Lenders, Company formation agents * **Agency Services** – Dealers, Traders, Brokers, Developers of Real Estate, Travel agents/Tour organizers * **Transportation of goods -** Import / Export traders, Freight forwarders, Freight shipping companies, Equipment rental and manufacturing related to transport, Charterers or operators of ships / vehicles / aircraft, Couriers * **Potential exposure to criminal activities** – Tobacco wholesalers, Sex industry establishments, Real estate, Construction companies, Telephone card/phone centers, Mining business, Pharmaceutical companies * **Dual Use Goods** – Chemical companies (producing chemical/biological tools), Technology (electronics/computers, night-vison equipment, drones) vulnerable to **proliferation risk** * **Crypto-asset wallet providers** and **exchanges** | □ High (5) |
| Does the employment status of the client fall into one of the following categories?  **Note:** You should clearly understand and verify client’s SoF and Source of Wealth (SoW) (if required) in those circumstances to ensure funds do not come from an illegitimate source.    □ Unemployed □ Self-employed □ Retired person □ Student | □ Medium (3) |

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| **PART D: PRODUCTS AND SERVICES** |

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| Is the client seeking to use your client account without delivery of legal service or is seeking an advice on matter not requiring transfer of funds but instructs you to make or receive payment(s)? | Prohibited relationship |
| Does your client seeking to engage you in any of the higher-risk services?   * Conveyancing * Sale or Purchase of business / securities / assets or property * Formation and management of trusts, companies or charities * Tax advice * Managing client money / securities / assets * Managing bank / saving / security accounts * Insolvency / Bankruptcy * Acting as custody stakeholder of client’s funds / escrow agent * Services offered to clients in the context of trade based or trade-finance arrangements   **Note**: You may consider setting transaction value limit for the above services and risk rate the services as (high/medium/low), for example property sale transactions of 10,000 000 HKD or above as a higher risk. The set limits will vary depending on the size and type of transactions undertaken by the firm. | * (5) |

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| **PART E: Politically Exposed Person** | | | |
| Name of PEP: |  | Title of Position Held: |  |
| Name of the Governmental or International Institution / Judiciary / Military / Political Party: |  | Country/Jurisdiction where the function is performed: |  |
| Type of PEP: | □ Client □ Family Member (Spouse or Partner / Child / Parent / Child’s Spouse)  □ Close associate[[1]](#footnote-1) □ Representative | | |
| Describe the nature of the prominent public function the person is or has been entrusted with as a PEP, or the nature of the person’s relationship with the PEP (if Client itself is not a PEP): | |  | |
| If “HK-PEP” or “International Organisation PEP”, reasons for not applying EDD (if appropriate, considering factors set out in para 121 of the PDP): | |  | |
| If former PEP, reasons for not applying EDD measures  (if appropriate, considering factors set out in para 8, Table A of the PDP): | |  | |

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| **PART F: Enhanced Client Due Diligence (EDD)** | |
| EDD is required for “High-risk” clients i.e. those who are more likely to be involved in ML / TF / PF activities. When applying EDD measures, you should:   1. Assess all circumstances implying higher risks of ML / TF / PF in providing service(s) to your client / beneficial owner; 2. Provide information on client’s SoW; 3. Provide information on client’s SoF; 4. Consider the nature of an ongoing monitoring of the business relationship; and 5. Obtain approval of senior management / partner before:  * In the case of a new client, establishing a business relationship with the client; or * In the case of an existing client, continuing a business relationship with the client. | |
| What is client’s SoW?  (Applies always to “Non-HK” and higher risk PEPs; and clients from a High-risk jurisdiction **if** the business relationship is assessed to be a higher risk business relationship taking into account all risk factors).  For other type of High-risk clients, you may either obtain SoW or apply any of the following EDD measures subject to risk-based approach:   * seek additional independent sources to verify information provided or made available to you; * take additional measures to understand better the background, ownership and financial situation of the client, and other parties to the transaction to be satisfied that the transaction is consistent with the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship; or * apply enhanced monitoring to the client relationship, including greater scrutiny of individual transactions.   **Note**: SoW must be documented and an explanation from the client should be sought (if required). You should understand and obtain information on:   * client’s net worth; and * where that net worth came from / how it was generated.   **Note**: You can rely on publicly disclosed information if such information is available, external confirmations and information provided by the client, focusing on the sources that generated the major proportion of the wealth.  Examples of documents supporting SoW are listed below. All documents should be attached in the client’s file. |  |

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| **Type of SoW:** | **Examples of supporting document(s):** |
| Employment (e.g. salary, wages, bonus, other benefits) | * Copies of pay slips * Bank statements displaying source of income and/or regular payments from employer * Personal Tax Summaries (PTS) * Confirmation from the employer of annual salary * Latest accounts or tax declaration if self-employed |
| Rental Income | * Tenancy agreement * Bank statement showing regular payments of the rent by tenant |
| Loan Drawdown | * Loan agreement or loan statement |
| Inheritance | * Letter from solicitor * Copy of Will / Grant of Probate |
| Sale of Assets | * Sale and purchase agreement * Letter from solicitor/accountant * Contract Note * Shareholder’s certificate * Transaction receipt/confirmation * Title Deed |
| Investments | * Records of external investments * Audited Financial Statements * Copy of contracts |
| Business ownership interests | * Audited Financial Statements * Copy of latest management accounts * Board of Directors approval * Dividend distribution * Tax declaration form |
| Gift | * Letter from a solicitor * Letter from donor explaining the reason for the gift and the source of donor’s wealth * Identification documents of donor * Donor’s source of wealth |
| Others | * Please specify here: |
| Nature of enhanced / ongoing monitoring of the business relationship (*Who will do What and How often*):  (What are the additional actions / controls that will be/are applied to monitor this High-risk relationship?)  **Note**: Ongoing monitoring means scrutinising transactions to check they remain:   * consistent with what is known about the client; * controlling changes to client’s information, activities and requested services; and * monitoring frequently renewed sanctions, PEP lists and adverse news.   The type of monitoring may include:   * requiring a greater level of information and explanation from the client in regards to transactions and amounts (during the course of a given instruction); * greater frequency of checks on transactions, particularly SoF; or * undertaking more frequent CDD checks on your client (screening, adverse news checks) periodically or upon each new matter. |  |
| **Overall conclusion:**  (If applicable, please explain if there are any additional risk factors present that should be taken into account, or reasons why the risk rating should be adjusted). |  |

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| **PART G: Approvals of Customer Risk Assessment** | **Overall AML Risk Rating:** |
| I certify that the information above is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge. | |
| **Signed by Engagement Lawyer:**  Name and Signature  Date: | **Approved by Compliance Officer / Partner:**  Name and Signature  Date: |

**ML / TF RISK RATING METHODOLOGY**

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| Risk Rating | Score Range | Type of Customer Due Diligence |
| Low | Total Score ≦ 8 | * Simplified CDD (does not require identification and verification of beneficial owner, allows for accepting other documents, data or information (e.g. proof of license, listed status or authorization status)) |
| Medium | Total Score 9 – 14 | * Standard CDD |
| High | Total Score 15 – 40 | * Enhanced CDD |
| Prohibited Relationship | Total Score ≧ 41 | * CDD is not required. Client instruction(s) should not be accepted. |

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| Total Score: |  |
| AML Risk Rating:  Low / Medium / High / Prohibited |  |

1. Definition of a “Close associate” includes:

   1. an individual known to have joint beneficial ownership of a legal entity or a legal arrangement or any other close business relationship with a politically exposed person;
   2. an individual who has sole beneficial ownership of a legal entity or a legal arrangement that is known to have been set up for the benefit of a PEP.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)