

Conduct of Meetings during the COVID-19 situation

Pursuant to Section 27 of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020¹, various Orders were issued to prescribe the alternative arrangements for the conduct of meetings of charities. These Orders include:

	Legal Structure of Charity	Name of Order	Order Issuance Date
1	Registered charities established as Companies Limited by Guarantee	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Companies, Variable Capital Companies, Business Trusts, Unit Trusts and Debenture Holders) Order 2020	13 April 2020
2	Registered charities established as Societies	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Registered Societies) Order 2020	27 April 2020
3	<p>(a) Registered charities that are set up by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable trusts • Unincorporated associations (such as charitable funds of co-operatives) • Private Acts <p>(b) All exempt charities except for exempt charities that are statutory boards covered under Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, and government-aided and independent schools which are declared as exempt charities</p>	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Charities, Co-operative Societies and Mutual Benefit Organisations) Order 2020	27 April 2020

¹ The new provisions, implemented on 7 April 2020, enable alternative meeting arrangements to be prescribed, by order, for those meetings where personal attendance is provided for in written law or certain legal instruments.

	Legal Structure of Charity	Name of Order	Order Issuance Date
4	Exempt charities which are government-aided and independent schools	COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Schools) Order 2020	27 April 2020

2 The alternative arrangements prescribed under these orders are intended to help those who face challenges in holding meetings while complying with the prevailing safe distancing measures. For example, these include charities who are prevented by their governing instruments from carrying out virtual Annual General Meetings (“AGMs”). Compliance with these alternative arrangements will be deemed to be compliant with the relevant provisions of written law or charities’ governing instruments (e.g. constitution, trust deed, private Act, internal rules and regulations) in respect of which the alternative arrangements are made.

3 The alternative arrangements are permissive, not mandatory. Nevertheless, charities are encouraged to rely on the alternative arrangements, and comply with both the letter and spirit of the prevailing safe distancing measures. Under the alternative arrangements, charities, save for charities established as companies limited by guarantee (“CLG-charities”), may also defer their AGMs and would have until 30 September 2020 to hold their meetings. For CLG-charities, a 60-day extension of time was granted to all CLG-charities whose AGMs are due during the period of 16 April 2020 to 31 July 2020.

4 The alternative arrangements apply for the period starting on 27 March 2020 and ending on 30 September 2020.

5 The Commissioner of Charities will provide further guidance on the alternative arrangements for charities in the coming week.

6 Should you require assistance or clarification on the above matters, please contact MCCY_Charities@mccy.gov.sg.

Office of the Commissioner of Charities
27 April 2020