IN THE FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

[2026] SGFC 147

FC/OADV 739 of 2025

Between

YND

And

YNE

FC/SUM 2466 of 2026

Between

YNE

And

YND

JUDGEMENT: VARIATION OF ACCESS ORDER

Family Law – *Access – Variation – Liberal access with default positions*

Version No 1: 23 Nov 2026 (17:35 hrs)

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YND
v
YNE

[2026] SGFC 147

FC/OADV 739 of 2025
FC/SUM 2466 of 2026

District Judge Kow Keng Siong
17 November 2026

23 November 2026

District Judge Kow Keng Siong:

Introduction

1 This judgement deals with cross-applications to vary an access order.

2 The parties have two daughters, born in 2016 and 2018 ("**Children**"). Under an Interim Judgment made by consent in November 2022, the Mother has sole care and control, and the Father "shall have liberal access to the children" ("**Access Clause**").

3 The Access Clause, as it is currently drafted, has not worked well. The parties disagree on its implementation.[1] They now ask the Court to vary the general words in the clause with defined arrangements. They present different proposals for the variation. These are set out at **Annex A** (Father's proposals) and **Annex B** (Mother's proposals). **Annex C** summarises where they are similar and different.

4 Under s 128 of the Women's Charter 1961 ("**Charter**"), the Court may vary an access order where there has been "material change in the circumstances". Two questions arise in this case. *One*, is this threshold for variation established? *Two*, if the answer is yes, what access arrangements best serve the Children now?

5 In summary, my answers to these questions are as follows.

(a) The statutory threshold for variation is met in the present case.

(b) I set out in **Annex D** the access arrangements which, in my view, best serve the Children's welfare now. I reserve decision on whether overnight and overseas access are appropriate, pending an Access Evaluation Report ("**AER**") and further evidence from the parties. I will review the access arrangements in **Annex D**, together with the issue of overnight and overseas access, after the AER is ready.

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1 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [9], [38] and [41]; Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [7], [8] and [89].

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Applicable considerations

Liberal access

6 The Access Clause provides for liberal access to the Children. This means that the Father may have reasonably generous contact time with them, subject to the parties making sensible arrangements.

7 For liberal access to work properly, both parents must be able to cooperate with each other: the care parent must not unreasonably obstruct access, and the access parent must respect the child's needs and commitments.

Default positions

8 Liberal access and a fixed schedule ("**default positions**") are not incompatible. I say this for two reasons. *First*, liberal access does not mean unlimited access. Neither does it mean access that is irregular or unstructured. *Second*, where parents struggle to cooperate, specificity can reduce uncertainty, and default positions can minimise disagreements over the conduct of access.

9 I adopt the following principles when drafting liberal access with default positions.

(a) *Default positions.* The order can fix the essentials (periods, handovers, holidays) so that access does not depend on the parents agreeing each time, while leaving them free to agree otherwise: *UDG v UDF* [2019] SGCA 24 at [11].[2]

[2] Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [12].

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(b) *Restrictions.* Restrictions on the manner of liberal access should be based on identified child welfare concerns. The nexus should be clear, and the restrictions should go no further than is necessary.

(c) *Judicial restraint.* The Court resolves material disputes. It does not regulate the minutiae of parenting. Tightly framed access terms have the undesirable effect of breeding rigidity and turning ordinary disagreements into alleged breaches of court orders. All these are not in the child's welfare, which remains the Court's paramount consideration: *YDQ v YDR* [2026] SGFC 74 at [15] to [17]; *YCW v YCX and YCY* [2026] SGFC 65 at [63].

My decision

Variation is justified

10 Where children are concerned, Courts take a practical approach to assessing whether the circumstances have materially changed. This is because the needs of a growing child are dynamic and can, at times, change suddenly.

11 In this case, I find that there has been a material change in the circumstances. This finding is based on the following.

(a) The Children were about six and four years old when the Interim Judgment was made. They are now four years older. Their school, co-curricular and enrichment commitments have grown substantially. This is evident from their daily schedule.[3]

[3] The daily schedule can be found in the Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [33].

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(b) The Access Clause has proved to be unworkable given the significant changes to the Children's daily routine. It depends on continuing agreement between the parties which has often been difficult to achieve. Both parties agree on this and have asked for the Access Clause to be more structured.

(c) Importantly, the frequency of access has reduced in the past four years. The Mother has restricted access – from about three sessions a week in 2023 to Saturday-access only since October 2025. She had also blocked the Father's access to the Children on WhatsApp for a few days in October 2025.

Restrictions on access

12 The parties disagree on whether the Mother is justified in restricting access.

The Mother's reasons

13 The Mother states that she had done so in the Children's best interests. She raises four key matters to justify her actions.[4]

(a) *Concealing the truth.* She alleges that in January 2024, the Father had told one of the Children to lie to her about how the child's shirt came to be stained by a spilled drink. In September 2025, he took the Children to his home without informing her. In October 2025, he told the Children not to tell her about having gone to his house and that it was "their secret". Regarding the last incident, the Mother claims that the Children

[4] Mother's affidavit dated 03.09.26 at [37] to [51]; Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [15], [21] to [23].

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were visibly uncomfortable in having to conceal the truth from her. She felt that they should not be pressured into concealing information from a parent.

(b) *Privacy and personal care.* The Mother alleges that the Father had previously engaged in inappropriate conduct that relates to the Children's privacy. This is principally based on the following.

(i) *Affidavit from former domestic helper*. According to her former domestic helper, the Father had the habit of urinating in the bathroom while the Children were inside, as well as watching her bathe them and change their clothes. The helper also referred to an occasion where the Father insisted on bathing one of the daughters. When that child refused, he locked himself in the toilet with the child. The helper heard hitting sounds and the child crying from inside. When she attended to the child later, she saw a red area on one of her thighs. These incidents took place on or before 2023.[5]

(ii) *Police report*. In November 2023, the Mother's mother had filed a police report providing information that largely corroborated the helper's accounts above.

(iii) *Email from the pre-school*. The Mother produced an email from the principal of the Children's preschool which stated that in 2022, the Children were referred to the National Anti-Violence and Sexual Harassment Helpline, that the helpline

[5] Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [49] to [61]; Helper's affidavit dated 03.09.26.

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reached out to the school, and that the Child Protective Service had spoken to the Children.[6]

Additionally, the Mother understands that the Father's residence has one master bedroom with a large bed and an open area containing a bean bag, projector and bathroom. There is no door or a separate enclosed room. In the circumstances, it is unclear what the sleeping and changing arrangements would be like during overnight access According to the Mother, these questions should be resolved before overnight access begins.[7]

(c) *Reluctance.* It is also the Mother's case that the second daughter has often stated that she was unwilling to attend access – apparently because the child finds the outings to be tiring, were "not fun", and that her requests to go home were not heeded by the Father.[8]

(d) *Visit to the uncle's home.* The Mother claims that the Children were taken, against their objections, to the home of the Father's paternal uncle ("**Uncle**") during Chinese New Year 2026 and that this had caused them distress.

The Father's response

14 The Father disagrees with the Mother's claims. He contends that she decided on the access arrangements and would restrict them unilaterally.[9]

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6 Mother's affidavit dated 03.09.26 at page 108.

7 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [58].

8 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [26] and [27].

9 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [9].

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(a) *Concealing the truth.* He denies having told the Children to lie or conceal information from the Mother. The stained shirt incident was a trivial matter. He believes that the Children's distress could have been due to the reaction of the Mother – who is a fierce and strict disciplinarian – to the incident.[10] In any event, he undertakes not to discuss parental disputes with the Children or ask them to conceal material information concerning their whereabouts, safety or welfare from either parent.[11]

(b) *Privacy and personal care.* The Father disputes the helper's account and denies any inappropriate conduct involving the Children. Additionally, he highlights that the alleged incidents occurred around 2022, before the parties agreed to liberal access. No charge or adverse finding arose from those allegations.[12]

Decision on overnight and overseas access reserved

15 Given the nature of the allegations, it is not appropriate for me to decide on the issue of overnight and overseas access at this moment. More information and evidence are needed before I can do so. These are my reasons.

(a) The privacy and personal care concerns are directly material on overnight and overseas access.

(b) The parties' account on the disputed matters cannot fairly be resolved on the evidence currently before me. The Mother's case is

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10 Father's affidavit dated 05.10.26 at [57] to [60].

11 Father's affidavit dated 05.10.26 at [125].

12 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [24] to [28].

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based on untested affidavit and evidence. In so far as she relies on the Children's accounts, this is based on hearsay evidence.

(c) Putting aside the privacy and personal care concerns, the fact is that the Children have not stayed overnight or gone overseas with the Father since the divorce about four years ago. Overnight and overseas access would thus be a new experience for them.

(d) The Children have particular night-time and medical routines. The Father has not yet explained in concrete terms how he would manage them, or what the sleeping and changing arrangements in his home would be.

(e) The second daughter's alleged reluctance to spend time with the Father, as well as the Children's alleged discomfort with visiting the Uncle's home, also deserves further consideration.

16 The Mother suggests that an AER to be prepared.[13] The Father has not expressed any objection to this suggestion.[14]

17 Given the above, I direct that the following be provided for my consideration. I reserve decision on overnight and overseas access in the meantime.

(a) An AER is to be prepared on the following: (i) Each child's relationship with each parent and her experience of the access; (ii) The reasons for reluctance, if any, by the Children to attend access; (iii) Each child's readiness for overnight and overseas access, and any transitional

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13 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [86] to [88].

14 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [28].

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steps or safeguards that would help; and (iv) The reasons for the Children's discomfort, if any, about visits to the Uncle's home.

(b) An affidavit by the Father setting out his overnight and overseas care plan. The plan is to address the following issues: (i) The Children's sleeping, bathing and changing arrangements; (ii) How he would attend to their medication and bedtime routines; (iii) How the Children may contact the Mother during overnight and overseas access; (iv) How he would respond if a child were to be distressed while in his care; and (v) Any other matter that he believes would help address the Mother's concerns.

(c) The Mother may file an affidavit in reply to the Father's care plan, if she deems this necessary.

Access arrangements that best serve the Children now

18 I understand that the AER will be ready in February 2027.

19 In my view, the parties should not have to wait for three months to have clarity on Saturday access, weekday access and telephone/video access (collectively "**regular access**"), as well as public holiday access. Valuable parent-child bonding time may be forever lost, and further disagreements over the implementation of the Access Clause is likely to surface, during these three months.

20 In coming to the above view, I have assessed the risks to the Children from a decision now on regular access and public holiday access to be low.

(a) The risks are relevant when the Father is solely responsible for the Children's personal care over an extended period. Such risks are

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lesser where the access is only for a few hours of access or is in public places.

(b) The Children are now about 10 and eight years old. From a recording tendered by the Mother, they are clearly articulate and would be able to raise an issue if something had happened during access which causes them discomfort or fear.

(c) The Mother has not alleged any incident where the Father had engaged in improper conduct with the Children during regular access and public holiday access since the Interim Judgment. Indeed, her own proposal provides for unsupervised access every Saturday. This is indicative of the Mother's own risk assessment of allowing regular access to continue.

(d) I am mindful of the Mother's claims that (i) the second daughter has often been unwilling to attend access and (ii) the Children object to visiting the Uncle's home. These matters concern how access is conducted, not whether it should happen. As such, they do not justify withholding access altogether. I do not understand the Mother to contend otherwise.

21 Having considered the matter, I have determined the default positions on regular access and public holiday access arrangements that best serve the Children's welfare now. These are in **Annex D**. I will elaborate on my considerations behind some of these arrangements.

Saturday access

22 I begin with Saturday access. The parties disagree on the timing. The Father seeks 10.00 am to 8.30 pm; the Mother proposes 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm.

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23 The Father's wish for more time is understandable. However, this must be subject to the Children's Saturday commitments.

24 On the present evidence, the added hours would not benefit the Children enough to justify the disruption. I order 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm as the default timing: see **Annex D** at cl (1). These are my reasons.

(a) Granting access from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm would yield little real bonding time together. The Children have writing, ballet and calligraphy lessons from the morning until 3.30 pm, at different places, with one of them at home. If the Father's proposed timing is accepted, most of the time from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm would have gone to transport and waiting. The stress for all parties concerned (including the Children), in having to coordinate and prepare the Children to attend the relevant classes within a tight schedule, is likely to outweigh the benefits from the additional contact time.[15]

(b) A return after 8.00 pm would eat into the Children's sleep. They go to bed between 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm and need to rise early on Sunday for class.[16]

(c) In my view, the default timing that I have ordered – from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm – is substantial. This unbroken period of four-and-a-half hours allows the Father to engage in meaningful activities with the Children.

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15 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [43] and [44].

16 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [34] (see the Children's schedule for Saturdays) and [45].

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25 To emphasise, the default timing does not stop the parties from agreeing to an earlier start time, or later return time, on suitable occasions.

Weekday access

26 Next, I turn to weekday access. The Father seeks access on Mondays and Thursdays from 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm and, in the alternative, one weekday. The Mother opposes any fixed weekday access during term time. In the alternative, she asks that the weekday access fits around the Children's commitments and end well before bedtime.[17]

27 I order the default to be one weekday access: Mondays in term time, 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, within or in the immediate vicinity of the Mother's estate: see **Annex D** at cl (2). These are my reasons.

(a) Weekend-only access would make the Father a visitor in the Children's lives. They should also know him as a parent who is present in an ordinary school week.

(b) Weekday access can also serve a need that both parties recognise. The Children have been advised to spend more time outdoors.[18] The Father can spend such time with them.

(c) That said, two weekday sessions ending at 8.00 pm would be too much for the Children. They would eat into homework, enrichment and

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17 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [31] to [41].

18 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [18]; Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [33] (the Mother includes "outdoor time" in the Children's schedule) and [34].

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bedtime on two school nights. The Father accepts that weekday access must be subject to the Children's schedules.[19]

(d) The timing of 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm is workable. Based on the Children's timetable,[20] they have outdoor time from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm, and shower time from 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm. To cater for the access that I have ordered, it should not be too difficult for the Mother to make some minor adjustments to the Children's routine from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

Telephone and video calls

28 Next, I come to telephone/video call access. The Father seeks a daily video call of at least 15 minutes. The Mother proposes one or two calls a week with no minimum length and no requirement of video.

29 As a default, I order two calls a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6.45 pm, for up to 15 minutes: see **Annex D** at cl (3). These are my reasons.

(a) With Saturday and Monday access, the Children will already have contact with the Father on four days of the week. In the circumstances, daily calls are not really necessary.

(b) I do not impose a minimum length of the call or require it to be by video. I will leave these matters flexible – to be determined by the Children during each call.

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19 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [17], [19]; Father's affidavit dated 05.10.26 at [5] and [40].

20 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [33].

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30 Before moving on, I wish to highlight this to the Father: He should accept that the Children may on some days have little to say. When this happens, he should not pressure them to prolong the conversation.

School holidays

31 Next, access during school holidays. The Father seeks at least 20 days a year, each of 24 hours, including overnight and overseas stays. The Mother proposes up to 10 daytime sessions of five hours, shared across school and public holidays.

32 As a default, I order 10 daytime sessions a year, each from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm: see **Annex D** at cl (4). These are in addition to regular access and public holidays access. My reasons are as follows.

(a) The Father's figure of 20 days includes overnight stays. I have reserved decision on such access.

(b) The 10 eight-hour days access that I have ordered gives him full days for activities that a Saturday access cannot cater for. This is materially more than what the Mother has offered.

(c) The Children also need holiday time for rest, schoolwork, friends and their maternal family.

33 In my view, provision should also be made to allow the Mother to take the Children away during the holidays. To cater for this, I make the orders in **Annex D** at cl (5).

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Public holidays

34 I allocate public holidays separately. This is so that significant days are shared without parties having to enter fresh negotiation each year. The default positions on access during public holidays are in **Annex D** at cl (6).

Chinese New Year

35 Both parties accept that the Children should spend part of Chinese New Year ("**CNY**") with each family. The Father's proposal includes overnight access. As overnight access is reserved, I order daytime access for now. My orders on the default positions for access during CNY are in **Annex D** at cl (7).

36 At this juncture, I address the issue of visits to the Uncle's home.

(a) The Mother requests that the Children not be taken to the home. She states that the Children had objected in 2023 to such a visit and became distressed after going to the Uncle's home in 2026. She produces a recording, where the Children have referred to the home as a "scary house".[21]

(b) The Father does not dispute that one of the Children might "at some point have expressed discomfort about a particular location". However, he contends that the 2026 CNY visit did not involve the Uncle's home. As to the recording, he contends that the Children's distress was possibly caused by the Mother's "interrogation" at the material time.[22]

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21 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [72] to [76]; Mother's affidavit dated 03.09.26 at [146] to [157]

22 Father's affidavit dated 05.10.26 at [101] to [105].

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37 I do not prohibit the Father from bringing the Children to the Uncle's home at this stage. The basis of their alleged discomfort is unclear. Nothing is alleged against the Uncle and his wife personally. In the circumstances, the Court should be slow to bar the Children from a branch of their family.

38 That said, I do not dismiss the Children's concern either. This concern is being addressed in two ways: (a) through the AER ([17(a)(iv)] above) and (b) a requirement that the Father is to tell the Mother of any visit to the Uncle's home (**Annex D** at cl (11)). Further, the Father is to note that if the Children are genuinely distressed about such a visit, he is to put their comfort ahead of his plans. How he responds will be relevant when I review the access arrangements.

Conduct of access

39 Having set out the default positions, I turn to how these positions are to be implemented.

Handovers

40 Handovers have been a source of friction for the parties.[23] A key issue is the place for handover. I am happy to note that during submissions, the Father had agreed to the Mother's proposal that the handover take place at the main gate of her estate. This agreement is reflected in **Annex D** at cl (9).

Activities and information

41 A key issue which has disrupted access in the past is this: How much details must the Father provide to the Mother about his plans during the relevant

[23] Mother's affidavit dated 03.09.26 at [52] to [59].

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access times? In my view, the Father has the right to decide the activities for the Children. At the same time, the Mother also has a legitimate interest in knowing what they will be doing and where they will be going.[24] To balance these two interests and to minimise misunderstanding moving forward, I set the following default position in **Annex D** at cll (10) and (11).

Contact outside of default access timings

42 I now turn to contact outside of the default access timings.

43 *School events.* I begin with school events that are opened to both parents. As a parent with liberal access, it would be reasonable for the Father to attend such events. The Mother agrees with this position.[25] This consensus is reflected in **Annex D** at cl (17). For the avoidance of doubt, attendance at such events does not give the Father the right to spend more time with the Children after the school event is over. Physical contact outside the default access timings shall be by agreement.

44 *Unilateral and unannounced visits*. Next, I turn to the Mother's complaints of unarranged meetings by the Father with the Children near the school and the home.[26] According to the Father, these meetings occurred during the Children's examination periods, and he was merely offering them encouragement; he had no intention to distress them.[27] My views are as follows.

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24 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [17], [18] and [78].

25 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [80].

26 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [28] and [29].

27 Father's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [71] to [75].

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(a) *Meetings outside the school gate*. In principle, there is nothing objectionable in the Father occasionally meeting the Children outside the school gate to offer encouragement and support for their tests and examinations. The Court should not prohibit such ordinary parental interaction without sufficient justification. That said, there are boundaries. Such meetings must not be conducted unreasonably, such as (i) to circumvent the orders that I have made, (ii) to undermine the care and control arrangements made by the Mother, (iii) to disrupt the Children's routine, or (iv) resulting in distress for them. I have sought to make this clear in **Annex D** at cl (18).

(b) *Meetings outside the home*. The Father should not be permitted to have unilateral and unannounced meetings with the Children outside their home beyond the default access timings: see **Annex D** at cl (19). This is because such meetings (i) would undermine the certainty that the default access timings seek to achieve, (ii) can be disruptive to the Children, and (iii) may even place them in the uncomfortable position of having to witness and respond to parental conflict regarding the meetings. The last concern is especially real given the parties' history of conflict over access.

45 The Father seeks a right to visit for at least 30 minutes a day whenever a child is ill, and up to three hours of compassionate access involving his relatives. I decline to fix such automatic entitlements. A sick child may need company – or may need rest. Further, I find it impracticable to fix the period of bereavement to a timetable. The Mother has stated that she will facilitate

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hospital visits and compassionate access.[28] I hold her to this assurance. My orders on this are in **Annex D** at cl (20).

Penal notice

46 Finally, I turn to the Father requests for a penal notice to be inserted in the variation order.[29] The Mother objects, contending that it is "unnecessary and disproportionate". She submits that the present difficulty with access is due to the lack of specificity in the Access Clause and the need to accommodate the Children's routines and welfare – not wilful non-compliance with the clause.[30]

47 In my view, no penal notice is needed.

(a) Such a notice does not create the duty to comply. This duty is imposed by the access order itself. Parties are expected to comply with court orders, regardless of whether they have been endorsed with a penal notice. In other words, the endorsement of a penal notice does not impose any fresh legal obligation on the Mother: *UNE v UNF* [2018] SGHCF 15 at [10] to [16].

(b) Further, since 2 January 2025, s 126B of the Charter has provided a dedicated route for enforcing access orders, under which the Court has a variety of enforcement options.

(c) Finally, with this judgement and the default positions, each party knows what is required. I expect compliance, and hope that enforcement will not be necessary.

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28 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [80].

29 Father's affidavit dated 05.10.26 at [120] and [121].

30 Mother's submissions dated 11.11.26 at [83] to [85].

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Conclusion

48 Accordingly, the Access Clause is varied as per **Annex D**. The variation is to **take effect on 26 November 2026** and shall continue until further order.

49 Overnight access, overseas access, and any consequential change to holiday and CNY access are reserved. An Access Evaluation Report shall be prepared. The Father shall file and serve an affidavit setting out his overnight and overseas care plan by 8 December 2026. The Mother may file a reply affidavit by 8 January 2027.

50 The matter is fixed for further hearing on 19 February 2027. At that hearing, the Court will decide the reserved matters and review the default positions in **Annex D**.

51 I conclude by noting that both parties have showed, through their submissions, that they are reasonable and can see the other side's concerns. I ask them to bring the same spirit to carrying out the access arrangements that I have ordered. These arrangements are the minimum to be observed, not the maximum that has been permitted. They provide certainty where the parties cannot agree. They do not prevent the parties from agreeing to more generous and flexible arrangements where these would better serve the Children's welfare: see **Annex D** at cl (21).

Kow Keng Siong
District Judge

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Ms Chen Yiyang (M/s 21 Chambers LLC) for the Father;
Ms Lu Zhao Bo Yu (M/s Han & Lu Law Chambers LLP) for the Mother.

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ANNEX A

THE FATHER'S PROPOSALS FOR VARIATION

The Applicant shall have liberal access to the children of the marriage as follows.

(A) Unsupervised video call access for at least fifteen (15) minutes on a daily basis with the children of the marriage. This allows the children to speak freely without being monitored. The children shall turn on their camera during video calls. The Applicant shall make such calls between 1:45 pm to 8.00 pm;

(B) Weekend access to the children on every Saturday from 10.00 am to 8:30 pm. Weekday access to the children on every Monday and Thursday from 5:30 pm to 8.00 pm. During these access hours, the Applicant will personally send/ pick up the children to / from their enrichment class (whose enrolment shall be mutually agreed between the Respondent and the Applicant). This ensures the children's learning is uninterrupted. The Applicant shall inform the Respondent at least two (2) days in advance for any change in days and/or timings.

(C) School holiday access, including local overnight stays and overseas holidays to the children of the marriage for at least twenty (20) days in a year. Each day is defined as 24-hours (e.g. picking up the children at 3.00 pm and sending them back home by 3.00 pm the next day). This is on top of the weekday and weekend access hours listed in (B). Overseas holidays require the accompanying parent (i.e. applicable to both the Respondent and Applicant) to give the other parent a minimum of three (3) weeks' written notice and the accompanying parent shall provide the destination, dates of travel, accommodation details, and emergency contacts. All necessary travel documents (passports, visas) shall be handed over during pick up and upon return.

1. Local overnight stays require the accompanying parent to give the other parent a minimum of two (2) weeks' written notice. E.g. if the Respondent wishes to bring the children to their maternal grandparent's house for local overnight stays, a 2-week notice shall be provided.

2. Notification to the other parent shall be done as early as possible to avoid clash in plans. E.g. if the Respondent wishes to bring the children for overseas holidays, the Respondent shall inform the Applicant with at least 3 weeks' written notice.

3. No approval is required from the other parent for both overseas holidays and local overnight stays, but both parents should share any reasonable concerns.

4. Both overseas holidays and local overnight stays shall take place outside of the children's school curriculum time.

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5. Any required rescheduling of tuition or enrichment classes due to overseas holidays and/ or local overnight stays shall be done by the accompanying parent;

(D) On public holidays (excluding Chinese New Year), the Applicant shall have access to the children from 10.00 am to 8:30 pm on each alternate public holiday. For avoidance of doubt, the alternate public holidays are: Good Friday, Hari Raya Haji, National Day, and Christmas Day. If any swap in date is required, notification and agreement by both parents shall be made at least 1 week before each public holiday;

(E) For Chinese New Year (CNY) access, the Applicant shall have one 24-hour block of access to the children during the two-day CNY public holidays. This allows the Children to have sufficient bonding with both maternal and paternal families. For CNY holidays that falls on odd years (e.g. 2027, 2029), the children shall spend time with their paternal relatives and the Applicant from CNY eve 5.00 pm to the next day (i.e. CNY Day One) 5.00 pm. For CNY holidays that falls on even years (e.g. 2028, 2030), the children shall spend time with their paternal relatives and the Applicant from CNY Day One 5.00 pm to next day (i.e. CNY Day Two) 5.00 pm. The Children will stay over at the Applicant's home to ensure they are well rested and taken care of;

(F) Access during exceptional circumstances e.g. Child's Illness: If either of the Children are unwell, the Applicant shall be permitted to visit them for at least 30 minutes a day at their place of residence, or hospital if necessary. Similarly, the children shall be permitted to visit their paternal relatives for up to three hours in exceptional and compassionate circumstances like death or serious illness, without the need for advance notice;

(G) The above access times excludes any school /Ministry of Education events which the Applicant and Respondent shall join. The Respondent is to inform the Applicant of any Edusave Awards won by the children of the marriage, and the location of the award ceremony;

(H) At no point shall the Respondent unilaterally impose further conditions to hinder the Applicant's access to the children of the marriage.

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ANNEX B

THE MOTHER'S PROPOSALS FOR VARIATION

The Respondent ("**Father**") shall have reasonable access to the children of the marriage ("**Children**") as follows.

(A) Regular weekend access every Saturday from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm. During such access, the Father may take the Children to public places and to his, his parents and/or his sister's homes. The Father shall inform the Applicant ("**Mother**") in writing no later than the day before the scheduled access on the location that he will be bringing the Children to and who they would be interacting with.

(B) There shall be no fixed weekday physical access during school term.

(C) The Father may have one to two telephone or video calls with the Children each week on non-access days, at reasonable times having regard to the Children's schedules and willingness. There shall be no mandatory minimum duration or requirement that the video function be used.

(D) The Father may have up to 10 additional access sessions in each calendar year during school holidays and public holidays, each for up to five hours, with dates and timings to be agreed in advance having regard to the Children's schedules, commitments and family plans. There shall be no overnight access in this regard.

(E) The Father may have access to the Children during Chinese New Year ("**CNY**"), either 9.00 am to 1.30 pm on the first or second day of CNY, to spend time with him, his parents and/or his sister. For the eve of CNY, the Children shall be with either parent on an alternate basis, starting with the Father on odd years (i.e. 2027) and the Mother on even years (i.e. 2028). On the years that the Children are with the Father on eve of CNY, the access timing shall be from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm.

(F) Overnight access shall not commence before each Child is at least 12 years old, sufficiently mature and independent to manage her personal and bedtime routines and privacy, and genuinely willing and comfortable to stay overnight. Any later local or overseas overnight access should be introduced progressively.

1. Overnight Access (Transitional Period): For at least the first 10 overnight stays, the Father's mother, sister, or another trusted female adult mutually agreed between the parties shall be present and remain in the same residence throughout the overnight access. This arrangement provides the Children with an additional trusted adult during the initial adjustment period while she becomes accustomed to overnight access. During this transitional period, the Children shall also have unrestricted access to a telephone or other device to contact the Mother at any time. If either of them becomes uncomfortable, distressed, or simply wishes to return home, that request shall be respected and she shall be brought home promptly.

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2. Overseas Access (Gradual Introduction): Overseas access shall only be considered after each Child has first established a comfortable and positive pattern after the first 10 local overnight access sessions. The first three overseas trips shall be introduced gradually in the following manner.

i. The first trip limited to one overnight stay;

ii. The second trip limited to two overnight stays;

iii. The third trip limited to three overnight stays.

3. Each stage shall proceed only if the Child remains comfortable and willing after the preceding trip.

4. For each of these first three overseas trips, the Father's mother, sister, or another mutually agreed trusted female adult shall accompany the Father and the Child(ren) throughout the trip. Both Children must have unrestricted means of contacting the Mother at all times.

5. At least two (2) weeks before each trip, the Father shall provide me with full details of the proposed destination, dates of travel, accommodation, rooming details, insurance and emergency contacts, and the trip shall only proceed once those arrangements have been agreed between the parties in advance.

(G) The Father may attend school events where the school permits both parents to attend.

(H) Each parent shall communicate respectfully and in a child-focused manner about material matters concerning the Children.

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ANNEX C

COMMON GROUND AND DIFFERENCES

Category 1: Matters of substantive agreement

Issue	Common ground
1. More specific access arrangements	Both seek clearer and more predictable arrangements in place of the existing general provision for liberal access.
2. Regular Saturday access	Both agree that the Father should have unsupervised access every Saturday. Their proposed periods overlap from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm.
3. Remote communication	Both accept that the Father should have regular telephone or video communication with the children.
4. Additional holiday access	Both accept additional access during school holidays, beyond regular Saturday access.
5. Chinese New Year access	Both agree that the children should spend part of CNY with the Father and his family, with arrangements varying between odd and even years.
6. Paternal family relationships	Both accept the importance of maintaining the children's relationships with their paternal grandparents and aunt.
7. School events	Both accept that the Father may attend school events where the school permits both parents to participate.
8. Parental conduct	Both accept that the children should not be drawn into parental conflicts, exposed to disparagement or asked to conceal material welfare information. The Father has expressly undertaken not to involve the children in adult disputes.
9. Children's educational and developmental needs	Both acknowledge the importance of protecting the children's education, rest, health and developmental needs when arranging access.
10. Safe and predictable handovers	Both accept that handover arrangements should be clear and practical.

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Category 2: Agreement in principle or conditional convergence

Issue	Common ground or convergence	Remaining differences
1. Weekday access	Father alternatively seeks one fixed weekday session instead of two. Mother alternatively accepts that weekday access, if ordered, should be structured around existing commitments and conclude sufficiently before bedtime.	Mother maintains her primary opposition to fixed weekday access. No day or duration has been agreed.
2. Overnight access	Both contemplate eventual overnight access. Father is prepared to consider staged introduction if immediate overnight access is inappropriate. Mother alternatively proposes resolving readiness concerns and reviewing the position.	Commencement, age threshold, duration, readiness and supervision requirements.
3. Overseas access	Both contemplate overseas access and recognise that appropriate advance travel information should be provided. Both put forward positions compatible with gradual introduction in appropriate circumstances.	Timing, preconditions, adult accompaniment, progression and consent requirements.
4. Children's wishes	Both recognise that the children's wishes should be considered according to their ages, maturity and circumstances.	The causes, reliability and significance of the children's alleged reluctance remain disputed.

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Issue	Common ground or convergence	Remaining differences
5. Safeguarding arrangements	Both recognise that genuine welfare concerns require consideration. Neither contends that established safety risks should be ignored.	Whether the Mother's allegations are established, whether restrictions are necessary and what safeguards would be proportionate.
6. Destinations and companions during access	Both accept general information-sharing concerning significant arrangements, without requiring minute-by-minute reporting or approval of every ordinary outing.	The extent of advance disclosure and whether particular destinations or persons should be restricted.
7. Illness and compassionate access	Mother is prepared to facilitate appropriate hospital and compassionate visits involving the Father and paternal family.	Whether the Father should have an automatic entitlement to specified visits and durations.
8. Independent child assessment	Mother requests a Child Evaluation Report. Father does not oppose neutral assessment if necessary to resolve genuine welfare or safeguarding concerns.	Whether assessment is necessary, its scope, and whether access decisions should be deferred pending assessment.
9. Flexibility in implementation	Both accept that access arrangements should accommodate illness, educational commitments and unforeseen circumstances.	The mechanism for rescheduling, make-up access and the extent of each parent's discretion.

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Category 3: Materially contested matters

Issue	Question requiring determination
1. Reasons for reduction in access	Were the reductions from three weekly sessions to Saturday-only access justified by the children's welfare, or were they unreasonable restrictions?
2. Weekday access	Should fixed weekday access be ordered and, if so, how frequently and for how long?
3. Saturday access	Should the Father's access be extended beyond 3.30 pm – 8.00 pm, notwithstanding the children's classes and routines?
4. Remote communication	Should calls occur daily or once or twice weekly? Should video, camera use or minimum duration be compulsory?
5. School / public holidays	What additional access should the Father receive, and should it include extended daytime or overnight periods?
6. Overnight access	Is overnight access presently appropriate? If not, what preparation, transition, safeguards or review arrangements are necessary?
7. Overseas access	When should overseas travel commence, for how long, and subject to what conditions?
8. Alleged inappropriate conduct	What findings, if any, should be made concerning the Mother's allegations about privacy, toileting and personal care? What implications do these have for access?
9. Children's reluctance	How much weight should be given to the children's alleged reluctance, and what are its causes?
10. Chinese New Year visits	What access periods should apply, and is a specific restriction concerning visits to the Father's paternal uncle and his wife justified?
11. Handover and information-sharing requirements	What specific obligations are necessary to address established difficulties without unnecessary interference in parenting?

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12. Enforcement provisions	Are make-up access provisions or a penal notice necessary and appropriate?

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ANNEX D

VARIATION ORDERS MADE

The Father shall continue to have liberal access to the Children.

Unless the parents agree otherwise in writing, the following terms apply until further order.

Regular access

(1) ***Saturday.*** Every Saturday from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm.

(2) ***Weekday.*** Every Monday during school term from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm, within or in the immediate vicinity of the Mother's estate.

(3) ***Calls.*** A telephone or video call every Tuesday and Friday at 6.45 pm for up to 15 minutes. The Mother shall make the Children available and allow them to speak freely and in private. There is no minimum duration and no requirement to use video. No call is required on a day when the Father has physical access.

Holiday and festive access

(4) ***School holidays.*** Ten sessions each calendar year, each from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm: one in March, three in June, one in September and five in November/December.

(a) The parents shall agree the dates in writing at least 21 days before the holiday begins.

(b) Failing agreement, the dates are the first Wednesday of the March and September holidays, the first three Wednesdays of the June holidays, and the first five Wednesdays of the November/December holidays.

(c) If a default date falls on a public holiday, a CNY access day, a compulsory school programme or within a travel period under cl (5), the session moves to the next weekday in the same holiday that is free of these.

(d) For the November/December 2026 holidays, the default dates apply unless the parents agree otherwise.

(5) ***Mother's travel.*** On at least 30 days' written notice, the Mother may designate one period of up to 14 consecutive days in each of the June and November/December holidays for travel with the Children. Access falling within that period is suspended, save that holiday sessions are rescheduled under cl (4)(c). The period shall not include a public holiday allocated to the Father under cl (6).

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(6) ***Public holidays.*** From 10.00 am to 6.00 pm on Good Friday and National Day in odd-numbered years, and on Hari Raya Haji and Christmas Day in even-numbered years.

(7) ***Chinese New Year.*** In odd-numbered years, CNY Eve from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm and the second day of CNY from 9.00 am to 1.30 pm. In even-numbered years, the first day of CNY from 9.00 am to 1.30 pm.

(8) ***Priority.*** Where periods overlap, CNY access prevails over public holiday access, public holiday access over school holiday access, and school holiday access over regular access. A regular session displaced in this way is not made up.

Conduct of access

(9) ***Handovers.*** Collection and return shall take place at the main gate of the Mother's estate. The Father shall be punctual and shall inform the Mother if he will be more than 15 minutes late.

(10) ***Activities.*** The Father may decide the Children's ordinary activities during access, including visits to paternal relatives, without the Mother's approval.

(11) ***Information.*** At least two hours before access, the Father shall inform the Mother of the places that he will be bringing the Children to. He shall inform her as soon as practicable of any material change of plan during access.

(12) ***Privacy.*** The Father shall ensure that each child has privacy when using the toilet or changing.

(13) ***Attendance.*** The Mother shall prepare and encourage the Children to attend access and shall not leave the decision to them. The Father shall have regard to each child's age and stamina, and shall respond appropriately if a child is genuinely unwell or distressed, including by returning her early.

(14) ***Missed sessions.*** If a session cannot take place because a child is ill, or for another reason outside the Father's control, the Mother shall inform the Father as early as practicable, and the parents shall arrange a substitute session of similar length within 14 days.

(15) ***No overnight or overseas access.*** Pending the Court's decision on the reserved matters, access shall not extend overnight or outside Singapore.

Other matters

(16) ***Conduct.*** Neither parent shall disparage the other in the Children's presence, involve the Children in adult disputes, question them about the other household, or ask them to give an untrue account to, or keep a secret from, the other parent. The Father's undertaking to this effect is recorded.

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(17) ***School events.*** Both parents may attend school events that the school opens to both. Each shall share with the other material information about the Children's schooling and health that the other cannot readily obtain.

(18) ***Meetings outside the school gate***. The Father may meet the Children occasionally outside the school gate to offer encouragement and support for their tests and examinations. Such meetings must not be conducted unreasonably.

(19) ***Meetings outside the Children's home***. The Father shall not have unilateral and unannounced meetings with the Children outside their home.

(20) ***Hospital visits and bereavement visits***. The Mother shall inform the Father promptly if a child is hospitalised and facilitate reasonable access to that child in hospital. She is also to facilitate bereavement visits involving the Father's close relatives.

(21) ***Other contact.*** Apart from the above, physical contact outside the default timings and periods above shall be by agreement.

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