

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE RERF COMMITTEE

1. The RERF Committee put forth recommendations on ways in which the Government, judiciary and community partners can better support families going through disputes.

2. The three key areas of recommendations are summarised below.

a. More upstream pre-divorce support for couples

- Enhance existing Mandatory Parenting Programme for divorcing parties with children under the age of 21
- Provide easy access to divorce-related information and services on a consolidated online platform
- Encourage counselling and mediation before parties file for divorce
- Strengthen capabilities of social sector professionals providing divorce support, to better assist divorcing parties

b. Enhancements to the family justice system to achieve better family outcomes

- Enhance the judge-led approach for the just, expeditious and economical disposal of proceedings
- Simplify the Family Justice Rules, which will result in simpler procedures, more timely processes and increased affordability
- Broaden the enforcement regime for child access orders to promote compliance
- Facilitate access to more affordable legal services in order to enhance access to justice
- Certify and accredit family law practitioners

c. More protection for persons without mental capacity and more support for their caregivers

- Simplify the deputyship application process to make it simpler and more affordable for caregivers who require deputyship powers
- Provide training and support for appointed and prospective deputies to better understand their role and obligations
- Facilitate use of counselling and mediation for dispute resolution and better support deputies who may face caregiver stress
- Enhance the Office of the Public Guardian's (OPG) supervision of deputies so that appropriate intervention can be rendered for cases facing challenges
- Build up capabilities of professionals in the social sector to better support caregivers of those who have lost mental capacity