Women's Commission

Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 639) ("Ordinance")

The Background of the Ordinance

To facilitate the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of civil judgments in matrimonial and family matters between HKSAR and the Mainland, the "Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Civil Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" ("Arrangement") was signed between the Supreme People's Court and the HKSAR Government on 20 June 2017.

- 2. The Ordinance seeks to give effect to the Arrangement, and the Ordinance establishes mechanisms for:
 - (a) the registration in Hong Kong of specified orders in judgments given by the Mainland courts in matrimonial or family cases on or after 15 February 2022;
 - (b) the recognition in Hong Kong of Mainland divorce certificates issued by the civil affairs departments in the Mainland on or after 15 February 2022; and
 - (c) the application for a certified copy of and certificate for judgments given by the Hong Kong courts in matrimonial or family cases on or after 15 February 2022, for the purpose of facilitating a party's application to the Mainland courts for the recognition and/or enforcement of such Hong Kong judgments.

3. The Arrangement and the Ordinance have come into effect on 15 February 2022. The Department of Justice will introduce the Ordinance at the meeting of the Women's Commission. The relevant presentation slides are at **Annex**.

Main Objectives of the Ordinance

4. The Ordinance which implements the Arrangement mainly seeks to offer better safeguards to the interests of parties to cross-boundary marriages as well as their families and children, minimise the need for relitigation of the same dispute in the courts of Hong Kong and in the Mainland, allow judicial reliefs to be obtained in a timely manner, and save time and costs and reduce emotional distress of the parties.

Main Provisions of the Ordinance

(A) Recognition and enforcement of Mainland judgments in Hong Kong

5. A "Mainland judgment given in a matrimonial or family case" refers to a judgment, ruling or conciliatory statement (but does not include a judgment given by a court in a place outside the Mainland that is recognized in the Mainland under the law of the Mainland) given by a Mainland court in any type of case prescribed in Schedule 1 to the Ordinance¹.

As set out in Schedule 1 to the Ordinance, cases are as follows:

⁽¹⁾ Dispute over division of the property of parties to a marriage during the subsistence of the marriage

⁽²⁾ Dispute over divorce

⁽³⁾ Dispute over property after divorce

⁽⁴⁾ Dispute over invalidity of a marriage

⁽⁵⁾ Dispute over annulment of a marriage

⁽⁶⁾ Dispute over a matrimonial property agreement

⁽⁷⁾ Dispute over custody or maintenance of a child arising from cohabitation

6. A party to a Mainland judgment given in a matrimonial or family case may make a registration application, accompanied by the prescribed fee, to the District Court (Family Court) for one or more specified order(s) in the Mainland judgment to be registered, if the judgment is given on or after 15 February 2022 and is effective in the Mainland. There are three types of specified orders under the Ordinance, namely, care-related orders², status-related orders³, and maintenance-related orders⁴.

(8) Dispute over confirmation of parentage

- (12) Dispute over right of access to a child
- (13) Application for an order for the protection of a person

Adoptions in the Mainland will continue to be given legal effect in Hong Kong pursuant to section 17 of the Adoption Ordinance (Cap. 290).

- ² As set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Ordinance, care-related orders are as follows:
 - (1) An order in relation to the custody of a person under the age of 18 years;
 - (2) An order in relation to the custody of a person aged 18 years or above who cannot live independently;
 - (3) An order in relation to the guardianship of a person under the age of 18 years;
 - (4) An order for right of access in relation to a person under the age of 18 years; and
 - (5) An order for the protection of a person from violence in a domestic relationship.
- As set out in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Ordinance, status-related orders are as follows:
 - (1) An order granting a divorce;
 - (2) An order declaring that a marriage is invalid;
 - (3) An order for the annulment of a marriage; and
 - (4) An order in relation to the parentage of a person.

Adoptions in the Mainland will continue to be given legal effect in Hong Kong pursuant to section 17 of the Adoption Ordinance (Cap. 290).

- ⁴ As set out in Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Ordinance, maintenance-related orders are as follows:
 - (1) An order in relation to the maintenance of a person under the age of 18 years;
 - (2) An order in relation to the maintenance of a person aged 18 years or above who cannot live independently;
 - (3) An order in relation to spousal maintenance; and
 - (4) An order for the division of property between parties to a marriage (including parties to a marriage which has been declared invalid or annulled), and includes—
 - (a) an order—
 - (i) for the delivery or transfer of property to one party to the marriage;
 - (ii) for the payment of a sum of money to one party to the marriage; or
 - (iii) for the vesting of property in one party to the marriage; or
 - (b) a declaration that property belongs to one party to the marriage.

⁽⁹⁾ Dispute over custody or maintenance of a child

⁽¹⁰⁾ Dispute over spousal maintenance

⁽¹¹⁾ Dispute over right of guardianship (limited to guardianship of a minor child)

- 7. Registration application in respect of a status-related order or a care-related order may be made by a party at any time after the relevant Mainland judgment has become effective, whereas registration application in respect of a maintenance-related order may only be made if a payment required to be made or an act required to be performed has not been made or performed after the due date. Further, registration application in respect of a care-related order or a maintenance-related order shall generally be made no later than within two years after the breach of such order or after the judgment has become effective, as the case may be. To cater for contingencies, the court has discretion to give permission for a registration application to be made even though the two-year time limit has passed.
- 8. If the court is satisfied that the relevant requirements for registration are met, it may order the specified order to be registered. If a specified order is registered, the other party to the Mainland judgment (other than the party who applied for the registration) may apply to the registering court within the time limit specified by the registering court to set aside the registration.
- 9. A registered care-related order or a registered maintenance-related order may be enforced in Hong Kong as if it were originally made by the registering court on the day of registration, but an action to enforce such orders may be taken only after the expiry of the period within which an application may be made to set aside the registration of the order, or after the setting aside application has been finally disposed of, as the case may be. Similarly, a registered status-related order is recognized as valid in Hong Kong after the period for applying to set aside the registration of the order has expired, or after the setting aside application has been finally disposed of, as the case may be.

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(B) Recognition of Mainland divorce certificates in Hong Kong

10. A party to a divorce specified in a Mainland divorce certificate issued on or after 15 February 2022 may make an application, accompanied by the prescribed fee, to the District Court (Family Court) for recognition of the divorce certificate. Similar to the case of registration of specified orders in Mainland judgments, the Mainland divorce certificate will be recognized as valid in Hong Kong after the period for applying to set aside the recognition⁵ has expired, or after the setting aside application has been finally disposed of, as the case may be⁶.

(C) <u>Certification of Hong Kong judgments for purposes of</u> recognition and enforcement in the Mainland

11. A party to a Hong Kong judgment in a matrimonial or family case that is given on or after 15 February 2022 and is effective in Hong Kong may apply, accompanied by the prescribed fee, to the relevant Hong Kong court for a certified copy of the Hong Kong judgment. The certified copy of the Hong Kong judgment would also be accompanied by a certificate issued by the relevant Hong Kong court certifying that the Hong Kong judgment is given in a matrimonial or family case and is effective in Hong Kong. The certified copy of the Hong Kong judgment and the certificate are amongst the application documents required in relation to applications to the Mainland courts for recognition and enforcement of the Hong Kong judgment.

⁵ The grounds for setting aside the recognition of a Mainland divorce certificate are set out under section 33 of the Ordinance. The party applying for setting aside should bear the burden of proof.

⁶ According to Schedule 4 to the Ordinance, the recognition mechanism under Part IX of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) will no longer apply to divorces in the Mainland. Applications for recognition of an order granting a divorce in a Mainland judgment or a Mainland divorce certificate shall be made pursuant to the mechanisms established under the Ordinance.

Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division Department of Justice June 2022



MAINLAND JUDGMENTS IN MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY CASES (RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT) ORDINANCE (CAP. 639)

《內地婚姻家庭案件判決(相互承認及強制執行)條例》(第639章)

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- B. Recognition of Mainland divorce certificates in Hong Kong 在香港承認內地離婚證

利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港判決

Part III. Questions and Answers

第三部分:問答環節

PART I. BACKGROUND

第一部分:背景

The Arrangement and the Ordinance took effect on 15 February 2022 《安排》及《條例》於2022年2月15日生效

Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Civil Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR

《關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行婚姻家庭民事案件 判決的安排》 implements the Arrangement in Hong Kong 在香港實施《安排》

Mainland Judgments in
Matrimonial and Family Cases
(Reciprocal Recognition and
Enforcement) Ordinance
(Cap. 639)

《內地婚姻家庭案件判決 (相互承認及強制執行)條例》 (第639章)

PART II: MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE

第二部分:《條例》的主要條文

The Ordinance provides for **mechanisms** in respect of the following: 《條例》就以下各項訂明**機制**:

Registration and enforcement in Hong Kong of specified orders in effective Mainland judgments given in matrimonial or family cases 在香港登記和強制執行生效的內地婚姻或家庭案件判決中的指明命令

Part 2 of Ordinance 《條例》 第二部分

Recognition in Hong Kong of Mainland divorce certificates 在香港軍認內地離婚證

Part 3 of Ordinance 《條例》 第三部分

Facilitation of recognition and enforcement *in the Mainland* of Hong Kong judgments given in matrimonial or family cases 利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港婚姻或家庭案件判決

Part 4 of Ordinance 《條例》 第四部分

Mainland judgments given in matrimonial or family cases ~ examples:

☞ 第3條

内地婚姻或家庭案件判决~例子:

Schedule 1

Section 3

- Dispute over division of the **property** of parties to a marriage during the subsistence of the marriage 婚內夫妻財產分割糾紛案件
- 》附表1

- ▶ Dispute over divorce 離婚糾紛案件
- ➤ Dispute over **property** after divorce 離婚後**財產**糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over **invalidity** of a marriage 婚姻無效糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over annulment of a marriage 撤銷婚姻糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over a matrimonial property agreement 夫妻財產約定糾紛案件
- Dispute over **custody** or **maintenance** of a child arising from cohabitation 同居關係子女**撫養**糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over confirmation of parentage 親子關係確認糾紛案件

Mainland judgments given in matrimonial or family cases ~ examples:

内地婚姻或家庭案件判决~例子:

- Dispute over **custody** or **maintenance** of a child **撫養**糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over **spousal maintenance** 夫妻之間扶養糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over right of **guardianship** of a minor child 未成年子女**監護權**糾紛案件
- ▶ Dispute over right of **access** to a child **探望權**糾紛案件
- ▶ Application for an **order for the protection of a person** 申請人身安全保護令案

Note 備註

- Adoptions in the Mainland will continue to be given legal effect in Hong Kong pursuant to section 17 of the Adoption Ordinance (Cap. 290).
 - 內地作出的**領養**將繼續依據《領養條例》(第290章)第17條的規定在香港獲得法律效力。

- Section 3
- ☞ 第3條
- Schedule 1
- ☞ 附表1

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請

Step 2: Application for setting aside

第二步:提出作廢申請

Step 3: Effect of Registration 第三步:登記的效果 A party to a Mainland judgment may make a registration application to the District Court (Family Court) to register a specified order if the Mainland judgment is:

如果內地判決符合以下情況,**內地判決**的一方可向**區域法** 院(家事法庭)就指明命令提出登記申請:

- ① given in a matrimonial or family case; 在婚姻或家庭案件中作出;
- ② given on or after 15 February 2022; <u>and</u> 在2022年2月15日或之後作出;及
- ③ **effective** in the Mainland. 在內地生效。

第7條

(1) What are "specified orders"? 如何定義"指明命令"?

- Schedule 2
- ☞ 附表2

Three (3) categories of specified orders in Mainland judgments given in matrimonial or family cases:

内地婚姻或家庭案件中的指明命令分為三類:

1. Status-related orders 狀況相關命令

E.g. orders granting divorce, annulment of marriage, etc.

例如:關於批准離婚的命令、 撤銷婚姻的命令等

2. Care-related orders 看顧相關命令

E.g. orders in relation to custody of or right of access, etc.

例如:關於撫養權、探望權的命令等

3. Maintenance-related orders 贍養相關命令

E.g. orders in relation to maintenance of a person, spousal maintenance, division of property between parties to a marriage, etc.

例如:關於撫養費、夫妻之間扶養、婚姻雙方財產分割的命令

Different Legal Terms in Mainland and Hong Kong 兩地不同的法律術語

Legal Term 法律術語	Mainland 內地	Hong Kong 香港
· Custody "撫養" "管養"	 "撫養" refers to the care provided by the elder generation to the younger generation (e.g. by parents to children). "撫養" 用於長輩對晚輩的養育(例如:父母對子女)。 	 "Custody" refers to a bundle of parental rights and authority towards a child. "管養" (custody) 指對某兒童的一籃子父母的權利及責任。
• "扶養"	 "扶養" is used amongst the same generation (e.g. between spouses, siblings). "扶養"用於平輩之間(例如:夫妻之間、兄弟姐妹之間)。 	Not applicable.不適用。
· Maintenance "贍養"	 "贍養" refers to the support provided by the younger generation to the elder generation (e.g. by children to parents). "贍養" 用於晚輩對長輩的供養(例如:子女對父母)。 	 "Maintenance" refers to financial provision for the other party to the marriage, the other parent or a child of the family. "贍養" (maintenance) 指對婚姻另一方、父母另一方或家庭子女的經濟給養。

Different Legal Terms in Mainland and Hong Kong 兩地不同的法律術語

Legal Term	Mainland	Hong Kong
法律術語	內地	香港
· Guardianship "監護權" · Custody "管養權"	 "Guardianship" generally refers to the supervision, administration and protection of the person, property and other lawful rights and interests of a person who has no or limited capacity for performing civil acts. "監護權" 一般指對無民事行為能力或限制民事行為能力的人的人身、財產和其他合法權益進行監督、管理和保護。 	 "Guardianship" generally refers to the legal relationship where the guardian exercises parental rights and authority towards a child where the parent has died. "監護權" (guardianship) 通常指監護人在兒童的父母去世後,對兒童行使父母權利和權能的法律關係。 "Custody" generally refers to the rights of custody, care and control conferred on the parents by the court. "管養權" (custody) 通常指法庭向父母授予的管養、照顧及管束子女的權利。

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請



第二步:提出作廢申請

Step 3: Effect of Registration 第三步:登記的效果 (2) When to make a registration application? 什麼時候可以提出登記申請?

Status-related orders 狀況相關命令

- Generally, registration application may be made at **any time** after the Mainland judgment has become effective.
 - 一般而言,當內地判決已經開始生效後,可在*任何時候*提出登記申請。

Section 7

☞ 第7條

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請

Step 2: Application for setting aside

第二步:提出作廢申請

Step 3: Effect of Registration 第三步:登記的效果 When to make a registration application? 什麽時候可以提出登記申請?

Care-related orders and Maintenance-related orders Section 8

第8條

看顧相關命令及贍養相關命令

Generally, registration application may be made within 2 **years**, subject to the District Court's **permission** to apply out of time. How the 2-year is counted depends on the type of orders.

一般而言,可在兩年內提出登記申請,除非區域法院批准逾期申 請。兩年期限的計算視乎何種命令而定。

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請



Step 3: Effect of Registration

第三步:登記的效果

(2) When to make a registration application? 什麼時候可以提出登記申請?

Maintenance-related orders 贍養相關命令

For maintenance-related orders that require **periodic payment or performance of an act**, the registration may also **cover** obligations which are **due** *on or after* **application date** and which are <u>not</u> <u>yet</u> paid or performed.

就要求**定期支付款項或履行作為**的贍養相關命令而言,登記亦可**涵蓋**在申請日*當日或之後*才到期而*尚未*支付或履行的責任。

- Section 11
- ☞ 第11條

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請

Step 2: Application for setting aside 第二步:提出作廢申請

Step 3: Effect of Registration 第三步:登記的效果 A party other than the party who applied for registration may **apply** to **set aside** the registration of a specified order **within the period specified by the Hong Kong court**.

除提出登記申請的一方以外的其他當事人可在**香港法院指明的限期內**提出**申請,尋求**將指明命令的**登記作廢**。

- **Grounds** for setting aside include: 將登記作廢的**理由**包括:
 - ✓ The respondent was **not summoned** to appear, or was summoned but **not given reasonable opportunity to defend** 答辩人沒有按照內地法律被傳召出庭,或被傳召出庭但並未獲得合理機會答辩
 - ✓ The judgment was obtained by **fraud** 判決是以**欺詐**手段取得
 - ✓ Recognition or enforcement is **manifestly contrary to public policy** of Hong Kong; when the order involves a **person under 18**, must take into account the **best interests** of the person 承認或強制執行該命令明顯違反香港的公共政策;亦須考慮未滿**18** 歲的人的最佳利益

Section 15

學 第15條

写 第16條

Section 16

Step 1: Applying for registration

第一步:提出登記申請

Step 2: Application for setting aside

第二步:提出作廢申請

Step 3: Effect of Registration

第三步:登記的效果

In respect of status-related order

就狀況相關命令而言

• The order is **recognized as valid** in Hong Kong. 命令獲承認為在香港有效。

Section 24

第24條

In respect of care-related order and maintenance-

related order

就看顧相關命令及贍養相關命令而言

The order may be **enforced** in Hong Kong as if it were an order originally made by the registering court on the day of registration.

命令可在香港強制執行,猶如該命令是由登記法院在登記當日原先作出。

Section 19

☞ 第19條

II.B. RECOGNITION OF MAINLAND **DIVORCE CERTIFICATES IN HONG KONG** II.B. 在香港承認內地離婚證

Applying for recognition 提出申請

Section 29 第29條

A party to a divorce specified in a Mainland divorce certificate issued on or after 15 February 2022 may make an application to the District Court (Family Court). 在2022年2月15日或之後發出的內地離婚證中指明的離婚的一方可向區域法院(家事法庭) 提出申請。

Setting aside the recognition order 將承認令作廢

- The other party to the divorce may apply to set aside the recognition order within the period specified by the District Court. 離婚的另一方可在區域法院指明的限期內提出申請,將承認令作廢。
- Section 32
- 第32條

Grounds for setting aside are:

將承認令作廢的理由為:

- ✓ The divorce certificate was obtained by **fraud** 離婚證是以**欺詐**手段取得
- ✓ The divorce certificate is **invalid** 離婚證屬無效
- ✓ Recognition is manifestly contrary to public policy of Hong Kong 承認離婚證明顯 違反香港的公共政策

- Section 33
- ☞ 第33條

II.C. 利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港判決

- A party to an effective Hong Kong judgment given: 以下生效香港判決的一方:
 - ➤ in a matrimonial or family case; and 在婚姻或家庭案件中作出;及
 - ▶ on or after 15 February 2022, 在2022年2月15日或之後作出,

may apply to the relevant Hong Kong court for a certified copy of the *Hong Kong judgment*.

可向有關香港法院申請該香港判決的經核證文本。

- Section 37
- ☞ 第37條
- Section 38
- ☞ 第38條

CERTIFIED COPY

II.C. 利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港判決

• The court must *also* issue a certificate certifying that the relevant **Hong** Kong judgment:

Section 39

☞ 第39條

香港法院 亦須發出證明書,以證明該香港判決:

- ➤ is given in a matrimonial or family case; and 在婚姻或家庭案件中作出;及
- ➤ is **effective in Hong Kong**. 在香港生效。



II.C. 利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港判決

Hong Kong judgments given in matrimonial or family cases ~ examples: [☞] Section 4 香港婚姻或家庭案件判決~例子:

Schedule 3

☞ 附表3

- ➤ A decree absolute of **divorce** or a decree absolute of **nullity** 離婚絕對判令、婚姻無效絕對判令
- > A maintenance order or an order for the transfer or sale of property
- ➤ An **adoption** order 領養令

贍養令、財產轉讓令或出售財產令

- ➤ A declaration regarding the **parentage** or **legitimacy** of a person 關於某人的父母的身分或婚生地位的宣告
- ➤ An injunction granted under the **Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance** (Cap. 189)
 根據《家庭及同居關係暴力條例》(第189章)發出的強制令

II.C. 利便在內地尋求承認和強制執行香港判決

Hong Kong judgments given in matrimonial or family cases ~ examples: 香港婚姻或家庭案件判決~例子:

- ➤ An order in relation to **custody** made: 關於**管養**的命令:
 - ✓ under the Matrimonial Causes the Guardianship of Minors Ordinance (**Cap. 13**); or 根據《未成年人監護條例》**(第13章)**作出;或
 - ✓ under the Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance (**Cap. 16**); or 根據《分居令及贍養令條例》**(第16章)**作出;或
 - ✓ the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (**Cap. 192**); or 根據《婚姻法律程序與財產條例》**(第192章)**作出;或
 - ✓ in respect of a person under the age of 18 years who has been made a **ward** of court 就受法院**監護**的未滿18歲的人作出
- ➤ An order in relation to custody **includes**: 關於管養的命令**包括**:
- Para. 19 of Explanatory Memorandum

☞ 摘要説明第19段

- ✓ An order relating to **access** 關乎**探視**的命令
- ✓ An order for the **return** or **delivery** of a child who has been wrongfully removed to the Mainland or wrongfully retained in the Mainland 規定交還或交付被不當地遷移到內地或不當地扣留在內地的兒童的命令

Section 4

第4條

- Schedule 3
- ☞ 附表3

Highlight 亮點

CONCLUSION 總結

- To conclude, the Arrangement and the Ordinance can:
 - alleviate the need for parties to bring separate lawsuits in the courts of the Mainland and Hong Kong for the same dispute,
 - enable them to obtain timely and effective judicial reliefs and more effectively protect their rights,
 - save time and costs and reduce emotional stress.
- · 總括而言,**《安排》**與**《條例》**可:
 - 免除當事人就同一爭議在內地和香港的法院分別提出訴訟的需要,
 - 讓他們能夠適時獲得有效的司法濟助,更有效保障他們的權利,
 - 節省時間和費用,減輕精神壓力。

PART III. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

第三部分:問答環節



THANK YOU! 謝謝!