

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

PRACTICE DIRECTION 3.3.11

ONLINE DIGITAL PAYMENTS FROM CLIENT ACCOUNTS

1. In this practice direction, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**App**” shall mean the application on a smartphone used by a regulated financial institution for effecting online digital transactions.

“**Approved Biometric Authentication**” shall mean the method using fingerprint or facial recognition through the smartphone’s function used by the App to authenticate the user when logging into the App.

“**Regulated Online Digital Payment**” shall mean the online digital payment stated in rule 8(5) of the Legal Profession (Solicitors’ Accounts) Rules.

2. Rules 2(1), 8(4A), 8(5) and 8(7) of the Legal Profession (Solicitors’ Accounts) Rules have been amended to allow for online digital payments for money drawn from client accounts.
3. An App must be used for any Regulated Online Digital Payment. When logging into the App, the authorising solicitor must do so using an Approved Biometric Authentication. After logging into the App, any Regulated Online Digital Payment can then be authorised using such method or methods prescribed by the App.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, any Regulated Online Digital Payment must not be conducted through regulated financial institutions’ websites accessed via browsers on laptops, personal computers and other devices.
5. The requirement of the Approved Biometric Authentication by each solicitor at the time of logging into the App seeks to ensure there are 2 solicitors authorising any Regulated Online Digital Payment. Solicitors are reminded not to relinquish their control of the App by any means.
6. All of the responsibilities and duties of a second authorising solicitor in Practice Direction 3.3.10 continue to apply.

Date: 23 May 2023

THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE