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# New Community Justice Centre to start operations in Q4

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SINGAPORE: Five organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to set up a Community Justice Centre (CJC) that aims to help unrepresented litigants through its services.

The MOU was signed on Wednesday by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Law, Subordinate Courts, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and The Law Society of Singapore.

The Patron of the CJC is Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong.

The CJC will start operations from the fourth quarter of this year. To be located at the Subordinate Courts, the centre will provide services like a Lay Assistance Scheme, legal clinics, practical support, referral and public outreach services.

In a statement, the Subordinate Courts said a large number of court users appearing before the Subordinate Courts are not represented by lawyers. It is essential to ensure that these self—represented litigants understand the legal jargon and rules, present their cases and cross—examine witnesses properly and effectively, as well as understand judicial rulings in their cases.

The Subordinate Courts added that without help to navigate the legal and judicial process, it is possible that some may be disadvantaged.

So it is timely to establish an integrated one—stop hub like the Community Justice Centre that would provide various support services for those in need of help.

— CNA/ck