

# SINGAPORE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## Key Reforms and Initiatives

2012

### AMENDMENTS TO THE PENAL CODE AND MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

Changes to the death penalty regime to give the Courts more discretion in murder and capital drug trafficking cases, in certain circumstances

2019

### AMENDMENTS TO THE PENAL CODE

Introduced significant reforms to our criminal laws, by amending the Penal Code, including:

- New offences to better protect vulnerable victims
- Offences to tackle new crimes facilitated by technology

2022

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Affirmed our commitment to ensuring access to justice by institutionalising criminal defence aid and establishing the Public Defender's Office, so that assistance is provided to less affluent Singaporeans who cannot afford legal representation in criminal cases

2010

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

Repealed and re-enacted the Criminal Procedure Code, introducing significant reforms such as the statutory criminal disclosure regime and community-based sentences

2018

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM ACT

Further improvements to the criminal justice system, including:

- Introducing video recording of interviews by law enforcement agencies
- Enhancing procedural protections for victims of sexual offences and child abuse offences
- Expanding the scope of offences to which the statutory disclosure regime applies
- Allowing more offenders who commit minor offences to be eligible for community-based sentences

2022

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SENTENCING ADVISORY PANEL

To promote greater consistency, transparency and public awareness in sentencing

- In Oct 2022, the Panel issued 2 information notes on general sentencing principles
- In Aug 2023, the Panel issued guidelines on the reduction in sentences for guilty pleas