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THE ART OF FAMILY LAWYERING

Using Therapeutic Justice language

[2026] SAL Prac 32

Under the Family Justice Courts Therapeutic Justice Model, family lawyers in Singapore are expected to, amongst other things, assist clients to reduce acrimony by finding common ground and generating long-term solutions to their issues. This means avoiding language that escalates conflict between parties and using courteous and constructive language instead (therapeutic justice language). Using examples from cases handled by the Legal Aid Bureau, this article suggests how family lawyers can apply therapeutic justice language in written correspondence and court documents.

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I Introduction

1 Lawyers, as part of their professional duties, are expected to be constructive and conciliatory when handling family cases.[1] This is in line with the Family Justice Courts Therapeutic Justice Model which states that therapeutic justice ("TJ") is about helping families move on from past issues and work towards a better future.[2] In this regard, family lawyers should work

1 Legal Profession (Professional Conduct) Rules 2015 r 15A(1)(*b*).
2 Family Justice Courts, "Family Justice Courts Therapeutic Justice Model" (Revised Edition 2026, 13 March 2026) ("TJ Model") at para 2 <https://
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together with parties and other professionals under the court's guidance to find prompt and lasting solutions for parties. In line with this, the TJ Model requires family lawyers to ensure that tensions between the parties are not escalated, by avoiding provocative or inflammatory language in written correspondence and court documents.[3] They should instead apply TJ language (*ie*, respectful, constructive, forward-looking language that helps to facilitate understanding between parties and solve their issues).

2 One challenge that family lawyers have highlighted is how to address statements from opposing parties in a TJ manner while ensuring that their clients' rights are protected. In this regard, lawyers should try, even when they disagree, not to be disagreeable.[4] TJ language is more likely to be well received by the other party, which opens doors to discussion and mutually agreed solutions to the problems that parties face.

3 This article will suggest various TJ language principles and techniques lawyers can use in corresponding with opposing parties or in court documents, using some examples from actual cases handled by the Legal Aid Bureau ("LAB"). The LAB has extensive experience handling family cases. In 2025, it registered about 2,000 legal aid cases involving family matters, making it the largest family "law firm" in Singapore, by number of cases.

II What is the principle behind therapeutic justice language?

A. Key principle: focus on observable conduct and its impact, not character judgment

4 The general principle of TJ language is to focus on observable conduct and its impact, and advocate using the facts

www.judiciary.gov.sg/docs/default-source/family-docs/fjc_tj_full.pdf?sfvrsn=6d5426b0_3> (accessed 27 October 2026).

3 *VQZ v VRA* [2021] SGFC 69 at [71] and para 14 of the TJ Model.

4 Tricia Ho & Foong Ke Hui, "Ethics in Family Law: The Collective Way Forward" [2025] SAL Prac 24 at para 30.

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of the case rather than making character judgments or casting blame on the other party.

5 For example, instead of writing in one's written submissions:

> In breach of the Court Order, the Defendant failed to transfer the matrimonial property within the stipulated deadline. We submit that a Registrar's Empowerment Clause must be inserted into the Court Order, failing which, the Defendant is likely to delay the transfer further.

6 One could instead write in TJ language:

> The Defendant did not transfer the matrimonial property to the Plaintiff within the Court deadline. [This avoids the harsh word "breach".] We submit that a Registrar's Empowerment Clause should be inserted into the Court Order, to ensure that the transfer can be completed without further delay. [This sets out the desired remedy and the reason for it, without blaming the defendant.]

7 As another example: "It ill behooves your client to take this position, which will only lead to delaying the ancillary matters."

8 Instead, one could write:

> We are concerned that the position taken by your client may prolong the ancillary matters unnecessarily, which could increase stress and hardship for both parties.

9 This avoids language which implies that the client's position is improper (*eg*, "ill behooves"), and focuses on the consequences (not just in terms of the delay, but the emotional and psychological effect on the parties).

10 The following section explores seven TJ language themes centred around the key principle set out above. The authors suggest family lawyers bear these in mind when preparing any written correspondence or court documents.

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III. Therapeutic justice language themes

A. Be firm without being inflammatory

11 Clients may insist on using language that reflects their hurt and anger, which can result in the other party feeling hurt and angry in turn. For example: "Your client failed to respond to our client's request to speak with the child. Your client's conduct only serves to alienate the child from our client." The words "failed" and "serves to alienate" may anger the other party needlessly, as "failed" has a negative connotation of not behaving by accepted standards, and the second sentence sets out a disproportionate consequence from one lapse, with "alienate" connoting hostility and anger.

12 The point that there was no response and its impact can be made more moderately. For example:

> Your client has not responded to our client's request to speak with the child thus far [to insert date(s) of such requests]. Our client is afraid that the lack of contact with the child might lead to them growing apart. He very much wants to remain in the child's life and co-parent the child with your client.

13 This avoids the negative words highlighted in the previous paragraph, and also sets out a principled reason for the client's desire to speak with the child. It is firm because it calls out the other party's refusal to respond, but is not inflammatory.

B. Avoid mind-reading

14 Written correspondence and court documents may attribute motives to the other party's actions. This is not necessary and can aggravate the other party. For example: "Your client has filed multiple applications for discovery against our client to delay the court proceedings and drain our client's finances, which could have been used on the children instead."

15 The verifiable fact is that the other party has filed multiple applications for discovery. However, the motivation behind this (*ie,* to deliberately delay court proceedings and drain the client's

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finances) would not and could not be known by either the lawyer or the client making this allegation. Hence, a suggested rewrite in TJ language would be:

> Your client has filed 5 applications for discovery against our client. [Being specific on the number cleaves closer to the facts of the case.] He is concerned about the time taken to deal with these applications, which have caused the court proceedings to proceed on a much slower timeline. He is also concerned about the costs he has had to incur to address these applications, which could have been used on the children instead.

16 This sets out the facts and consequences of the other party's behaviour, without attributing ill intentions to the other party.

C. Avoid judgment

17 The client may be tempted to judge the other party's actions. For example:

> Your client has not paid for the child's maintenance this month. The child has had to resort to borrowing money from his friends instead. Your client is a selfish and stingy person who prioritises himself over the child's welfare.

18 This should be avoided, as it serves no useful purpose. The focus should instead be on the consequences of the actions. Where possible, the client should give the other party the benefit of the doubt and express empathy. It would be more in line with TJ language to state:

> Your client has not paid for the child's maintenance this month. Therefore, the child borrowed money from his friends to pay for his expenses. Our client is sure that your client cares about the child's welfare, and would not want the child to have to do this again.

19 The re-written version removes judgment regarding the other party's non-payment of child maintenance, explains the consequences neutrally ("has had to resort to" in para 17 above implies desperation and a loss of control, which seems like the other party is being guilt-tripped), and finishes with an

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empathetic statement regarding the other party's desire to be a good father.

20 As another example: "Your client has poisoned the child's mind against our client by telling the child that our client does not care about him. She is a spiteful person." The words "poisoned" and "spiteful" are negative judgments on her actions and character. A TJ language rewrite which calls out the bad behaviour without judgment could be:

> Your client told the child that our client does not care about him. This appears to be a view the child seems to have adopted and that is not helpful for the father–child bond, which our client is sure your client wishes to support.

21 The rewrite focuses on the facts (*ie*, the child has adopted the view that the client does not care about him), explains the consequences, and in a spirit of empathy, attributes a positive intention to the other party.

D. Keep the child at the centre

22 It is often difficult for divorcing parties to focus on the child instead of their own rights and needs. The lawyer's role is to help them with such reframing. For example, "Your client has deprived our client of access by cancelling the access session 5 minutes before it was supposed to start. He was very much looking forward to seeing the child, and feels extremely disappointed that he could not do so" focuses on the conflict between parties. Reframing it as "Our client notes that your client cancelled the access session 5 minutes before it was supposed to start. This must have been disappointing for the child, who would have looked forward to spending time with our client" shifts the focus to the child since the child's welfare is paramount. The word "deprived" has been removed from the rewrite as it carries a connotation of the party deliberately seeking to hamper the other party's access.

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E. Write in a problem-solving way

23 It is not uncommon for clients to insist on their position without any proposed solution. This is not in the spirit of TJ, which urges parties to collaborate on finding lasting solutions to their issues. For example:[5]

> Your client (the father) promised that he would come and see the child on Saturday at 7 P.M. to take him to dinner. Your client was one hour late, however, and did not call our client during this time. Neither did he answer her calls to him. The child was hungry and anxious, and our client was left wondering whether she needed to cook dinner for the child or not. She had to comfort the child who was upset and feed him snacks to assuage his hunger.
>
> Your client's behaviour is extremely inconsiderate. He has done this a few times already, and our client is tired of having to do extra work because of this.

24 The first paragraph does not detract from the TJ spirit, as it just describes what the father was supposed to do, what he did not do, and the consequences of this. However, the second paragraph is not written in TJ language as it condemns the other party's behaviour and focuses on the client's emotions. It does not provide a constructive solution to prevent the problem from recurring. One possible way of re-writing this second paragraph in a TJ manner is:

> To avoid such a situation in future, which is upsetting for the child, we request that the father ensure he arrives on time for future access sessions. Should he anticipate being delayed, we ask that he notify our client as soon as possible. If he is more than half an hour late without notifying our client, our client will treat the access as cancelled and proceed with her own arrangements for the child.

25 This approach solves the problem by making a reasonable request and setting out a proposed solution without judgment.

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5 This example was adapted from Lim Hui Min & Darren Chan, "Re-Writing to Heal, Not Hurt – A Therapeutic Justice Language Guide for Family Litigants" at p 11 <https://isomer-user-content.by.gov.sg/376/e02c7058-dee7-4b29-b130-7f61e8764a3f/Therapeutic_Justice_Language_Guide_Feb2026.pdf> (accessed 27 October 2026).

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F. Avoid the urge to have the last word if it is not necessary

26 If a lawyer receives a letter from the other party's lawyers which has multiple allegations against their client, *eg*, "Your client is a disinterested father. He always prioritises himself. He has also breached the court order by failing to pay maintenance for the children for the last 2 months", they should first identify whether these are opinions or facts. In this example, the first two sentences are opinions which do not require a response. Responding would not help to resolve or clarify any issue. The allegation about maintenance, however, is appropriate to address because it is not an opinion and has legal consequences for the father (*eg*, committal proceedings) if left unaddressed.

27 Family lawyers should be selective and only respond to facts that are legally material.

G. Avoid bringing up irrelevant historical grievances

28 There is no need to dwell on irrelevant historical grievances, especially those centred around the parties' conduct or relationship. For example, "the other party has always been picking quarrels with me throughout the years of marriage" in an ancillary matters affidavit, would not be in line with TJ, as it is not directly connected with any of the ancillary matters. Lawyers should keep their writing future-centric, *ie*, focused on what needs to happen going forward, rather than cataloguing past wrongs.

29 More examples of TJ and non-TJ language based on LAB's cases are set out in the Annex.[6]

6 The authors have extracted examples from the Legal Aid Bureau's cases where non-TJ language was used by lawyers in correspondence, affidavits and legal submissions. The examples which touch on the different themes in this article have been re-written into TJ language, with an explanation for what amendments were made, and why.

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IV. A checklist before pressing "Send"

30 Before sending out written correspondence or filing court documents such as affidavits and written submissions, ask yourself:

(a) Is the tone used respectful and measured (*eg*, not inflammatory and non-judgmental) throughout? How would I react if I were on the receiving end?

(b) Have I stated facts rather than opinions? Have I given the other party the benefit of the doubt in the situation?

(c) Is everything I have included necessary and legally relevant?

(d) Is the communication future-focused, rather than dwelling on past grievances?

(e) Is what I wrote focused on the child's needs rather than on the conflict between the parents?

(f) Have I clearly set out what the client is asking for, and is that request reasonable?

(g) Have I proposed solutions to the problem?

(h) Would I be comfortable if this document were made public and attributed to me as its author?

31 If the answer to any of these questions is "no", revise the relevant passages until the answer to all the questions is an unqualified "yes" before the written correspondence or court document goes out.

V. Conclusion

32 Family lawyers may worry that adopting TJ language may mean conceding ground to the other side. This concern is misplaced. The examples in this article and the Annex demonstrate that it is entirely possible to advance a client's position firmly and effectively while writing with restraint and respect, promoting understanding, rather than entrenching conflict.

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33 Writing with TJ language makes a lawyer more effective because it keeps the focus on what matters, reduces the noise of unnecessary conflict, and demonstrates to the court a genuine commitment to resolution.

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Annex

Therapeutic Justice Language in Practice: Examples From the Legal Aid Bureau

The following examples are drawn from actual cases handled by LAB. The authors have underlined non-TJ words/phrases from excerpts in affidavits, submissions and correspondence between lawyers. These examples illustrate how to write in TJ language using one or more of the themes discussed in the article, namely: be firm without being inflammatory; avoid mind-reading; avoid judgment; keep the child at the centre, write in a problem-solving way, avoid the urge to have the last word if it is not necessary, and avoid bringing up irrelevant historical grievances.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(A) Children and Co-parenting			
(i) Affidavit			
Context: The OP (wife) asserts that the AP (husband) badmouthed her to the children and hence they changed their attitude and behaviour towards her.[7]			
… the [AP] would constantly badmouth me to the children, who started to think poorly of me. I was extremely saddened by their sudden change in attitude towards me. … when I purchased gifts … for the children, they did not dare to bring them home as they were afraid that the [AP] would throw them away.	There was no evidence stated to support the underlined statements which hence appear speculative, and could be untrue. The phrase "badmouth" is also a strong and unnecessarily inflammatory word to use.	The children began to speak to me disrespectfully and call me names, which they had never done before. *[to set out examples and dates of the incidents]* They told me that the [AP] told them I was *[to set out the examples and dates of the incidents where the children told the OP what the AP had said about her].* … when I purchased gifts … for the children, they told me they did not wish to bring the gifts home, as they were afraid that the [AP] would throw them away. *[to set out examples and dates of the incidents where the OP had bought the gifts, what gifts these were, and what specifically the children had said when they did not wish to bring them home]*	It states only what the OP directly observed without speculating on the cause. Specific details would give a clear picture of what happened rather than accusatory statements unbacked by evidence.

7 AP stands for the Legal Aid Bureau applicant and OP stands for the other party.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(ii) Affidavit			
Context: The OP (wife) highlights that the AP (husband) did not fulfil his promise to be the main caregiver for the children.			
Although the [AP] had promised to be the main caregiver of the children …, the [AP] had frequently abandoned the children when they were sick and for no rhyme or reason, leaving me scrambling for help.	The words in underline attribute negative motives to AP's actions, which is unnecessary, judgmental and inflammatory.	Despite the [AP]'s promise that he would be the main caregiver of the children …, he would frequently tell me that he could not look after the children on a certain day or time, without giving me any reasons. Therefore, I often had to take urgent leave at short notice to care for the children. This happened *[to state examples and dates of incidents, and indicate the frequency]*.	It focuses on the facts of the AP's unavailability and its impact on the OP, without harsh words like "abandoned", which implies an intention to desert, and "no rhyme or reason", which implies that there was no good reason for the AP's conduct, which is speculative.
(iii) Affidavit			
Context: The OP (husband) claims that the AP (wife) deliberately turned the children against him.			
The [AP] … deliberately brainwashed and stoked the children to turn against me. This could be evinced by the video/audio recording where it was clearly seen that both [Child A] and [Child B] were hurling abuse … at me … When I asked to speak to [the children], they would refuse …	The portion in underline gives a certain interpretation of the AP's behaviour, which is unnecessary and speculative. The recording can speak for itself.	[Child A] and [Child B] have been using disrespectful language towards me, as seen and/or heard in the video/audio recording … When I asked to speak to [the children], they would refuse … I cannot know for sure why this has happened, but I request the [AP] discourage this behaviour if she observes it, and work with me to improve the children's behaviour towards me and their relationship with me.	It focuses on the children's behaviour, without pinning blame on the AP without evidence. It also re-centres the concern to the children's relationship with the OP. The request at the end for the AP to work with the OP to discourage the children's bad behaviour and support his relationship with the children is forward-looking, collaborative and in line with TJ principles.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(iv) Submissions			
Context: The OP (husband) describes the AP (wife)'s behaviour towards his children from his previous marriage to support his case that the AP's relationship with them was too poor for her to have made indirect contributions by caring for them.			
The [AP] was hostile and mean towards the [OP]'s children [from OP's previous marriage]. The [AP] would nitpick on them, throw objects without any instigation, and even berate and criticise them. The [AP] would also send text messages to the [OP]'s sons incessantly to criticise and curse at them.	The words in underline have strong negative connotations, attacking the AP's character and personality. Let the facts speak for themselves.	The [AP] has behaved harshly towards the [OP]'s children [from [OP]'s previous marriage]. She would find fault with them on small matters *[to set out examples]*, throw objects at them without any reason *[to set out examples and dates of incidents]*, and berate and criticise them *[to set out frequency]*. She has also sent multiple text messages *[to set out examples and dates of messages]* to the [OP]'s sons containing criticism, vulgarities and ill-wishes.	It focuses on the relevant facts without making judgments on the AP's motives and character.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(B) Finances and lifestyle			
(i) Affidavit			
Context: The OP (husband) highlights his financial contributions and states that the AP (wife) expected him to pay for all expenses.			
Out of goodwill, I let the [AP]'s son [from the AP's previous marriage] reside rent-free at the matrimonial flat without monetary consideration … from either the [AP] or her son. However, the [AP] has treated me as though I am a cash machine and expected me to finance their lifestyle completely.	The phrase "without monetary consideration" is rather cold and clinical and does not do justice to the OP's motives. The phrase "treated me as though I am a cash machine and expected me to finance their lifestyle completely" is accusatory, attributing an attitude or motive to the AP, which is speculative, and also inflammatory as it implies the AP is selfish and exploiting the OP.	I allowed the [AP]'s son [from AP's previous marriage] to reside at the matrimonial flat rent-free as I wanted everyone to stay as a family … However, the AP did not contribute to any of the household expenses, and asked me to pay for all of them.	It clarifies that the OP's motive in allowing the AP's son to stay stemmed from a desire to embrace the AP's son as part of the family and states factually that the AP did not contribute to the household expenses but relied on the OP to do so.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(ii) Affidavit			
Context: The OP (husband) seeks to show that the AP (wife) cannot care for the children because of her lifestyle.			
After the discovery of the [AP]'s adultery, [AP] suddenly demanded that she could take care of the children without me. Feeling upset, I challenged her to fetch the children [to school] herself … This resulted in the children either going to school/ preschool late and/or not attending at all. I also recall the [AP] always video calling the [third party] late into the night, where she would vape and/ or drink alcohol as well.	Raising the AP's adultery is irrelevant to her caregiving ability and merely raises a historical grievance. The phrase "I challenged her" prejudges the AP's inability to care for the children without the OP's help. The idea of a "challenge", which can be failed at, also shows that the OP was willing to take the risk that the children may not be fetched to school to prove his point, which is not helpful to his case. Lastly, the reference to late-night video calls with the third party, and vaping and drinking alcohol, appear to be purely an attack on the AP's character without explaining how it affects the children. There is also a distinction between drinking alcohol, which is legal, and vaping, which is illegal. The latter is relevant as any illegal activities would threaten the AP's ability to care for the children, whereas drinking alcohol would not, unless done excessively – there was no pattern established in the affidavit.	After our marriage broke down, the [AP] told me that she wanted to be the sole caregiver of the children. I therefore requested that she bring the children to school herself. However, I observed that the children were either late for school or absent *[to state some examples and the number of occasions these were observed].* This was because the [AP] could not get up on time in the morning on these occasions. This could be because the night before these occasions I observed the [AP] video-calling the [third party] late into the night, where she would also be drinking alcohol. This might have affected her sleep duration and quality. I also noted she would vape during these video calls, and I am concerned about this as vaping is illegal, and I would not want her to get into trouble with the law, which might affect her ability to care for the children.	It avoids mention of the AP's adultery, which is irrelevant. It focuses on the issue of the AP not being able to get the children to school on time, and why, rather than framing it as a "challenge" to the AP, which sounds petty. It links the AP's behaviour in keeping late nights, vaping and drinking alcohol with the lateness in getting the children to school and highlights that vaping is illegal and could threaten her ability to care for the children. The rephrasing makes all this clear, in neutral language.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(C) Lawyer to lawyer correspondence			
(i) Written correspondence			
Context: The OP (foreign husband)'s lawyers' response when asked by the AP's (wife) lawyers if they could provide information on parallel foreign divorce proceedings during ongoing Singapore proceedings.			
… your client is at liberty to conduct her own checks … We owe no duty to your client, and have highlighted this issue to you as a gesture of goodwill.	This phrase "at liberty to conduct her own checks" seems dismissive and adversarial in tone, rather like "she can go and find out for herself". The phrase "We owe no duty to your client" is combative and is also phrased as covering all duties, rather than the specific issue. The phrase "highlighted this issue to you as a gesture of goodwill" sounds rather self-congratulatory and pointed, with a sub-text of "we did not have to tell you this".	On this matter, our client respectfully requests that your client conduct her own checks. This is so that she has the benefit of the full picture independently of us, and can be assured that no relevant information was withheld. While not accepting that we owe any duty to your client, for transparency and fairness, we have brought the foreign proceedings to your attention, since your client may wish to seek legal advice on how it may affect her conduct of the Singapore proceedings.	It makes the key point that the OP's lawyers do not want to do the relevant checks for the AP, and that she should do so herself, if she wishes, in a respectful way – literally by using the word "respectfully", and omitting the phrases which are dismissive, adversarial and self-congratulatory in tone. It also gives a good reason for wanting the AP to do her own checks and makes the point that the OP's lawyer did not have to bring the matter to the AP's lawyers' attention, but in a less pointed fashion. It also gives a reason as to why the OP's lawyers should want to do this, *ie*, because it is in line with TJ principles.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
(ii) Written correspondence			
Context: This is the same case mentioned in (C)(i) above.			
We trust that you are not suggesting that we have fallen short of discharging our duty to the Court. Notwithstanding the timely notices provided, it is curious that your client only saw fit to file her application … more than a month later … without any earlier notice … you are reminded of the … earlier correspondence … where the real prospect of the commencement of proceedings in [foreign country] was brought to your client's attention.	The first sentence imputes that the AP's lawyers are insinuating that the OP's lawyers have not fulfilled their duty to the court, which is an unnecessarily negative interpretation of the APs' lawyers' request for updates, set out below: "Kindly clarify whether the August Hearing is a substantive hearing where the [foreign] Court will make orders or a case conference for further directions to be given." The OP's lawyers replied using non-TJ language at (C)(i) above and the AP's lawyers explained that: "While you do not owe a duty to our client, you … owe a duty to the Court to facilitate the administration of justice … which includes updating the Court …". If the OP's lawyers did think that the AP's lawyers were making that insinuation rather than explaining why the update was necessary, they should clarify whether this was the intention, rather than assuming it.	Our client has kept your client informed of the [foreign] divorce proceedings in a timely manner. In this regard, we refer to the … earlier correspondence … where our client brought the real prospect of the commencement of proceedings in [foreign country] to your client's attention. However, your client had filed her application … more than a month later … without any notice, which caught our client by surprise.	This highlights that the OP gave notice to the AP before filing the foreign court proceedings, but the AP, on the contrary, did not give notice of the filing of her application. This is done in a factual manner without any condescending tone or imputing any insinuations being made or ulterior motives on the part of the AP or her lawyers. This preserves a more constructive relationship between the lawyers.

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Non-TJ language examples	Reason(s) why language used is non-TJ	Suggested rephrasing in TJ language	Reasons why this is TJ language
	The phrase "it is curious" insinuates that the AP had an ulterior motive regarding the timing of the application filing, which is speculative and may be untrue. Lastly, the phrase "you are reminded of" is condescending, since the AP's lawyers would be well aware of the earlier correspondence, and having to be reminded of it implies that AP's lawyers had forgotten about it. The reply appears to respond to every perceived slight or insinuation, or make its own insinuations, which reflects a desire to have the last word, rather than focusing on the key issue of the AP not giving sufficient notice of her application filing, despite the OP giving her ample notice of his filing of court proceedings.		

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