

## **Online Dispute Resolution Program Set to Begin Jan. 2, 2019**

Effective Jan. 2, 2019, the Judicial Branch will implement a voluntary online dispute resolution pilot program in the Hartford and New Haven judicial districts. The program is intended to help parties resolve contract collection cases and minimize, if not eliminate, the necessity of them appearing in court.

**Online Dispute Resolution**  
*A pilot program available for cases filed on or after January 2, 2019 in the Hartford and New Haven Judicial Districts only.*

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is a Judicial Branch pilot program available in cases filed on or after January 2, 2019 in the Hartford and New Haven Judicial Districts only to help parties resolve specific types of money disputes called contract collection cases (C40) in a simple, fast and low-cost way. It is an alternative to going through the regular court process, which generally has more complicated procedures and rules, takes a longer time, and frequently requires you to appear in court to pursue or defend the claim.

**ODR is Easy**  
You don't need specialized knowledge about the law, rules, or evidence. The court supplies the forms related to the program. They are easy to complete and will save you time and money.

**ODR is Convenient**  
You may file documents online at almost any time, and will work with a court mediator in an informal setting to reach an agreement on your dispute. You can participate from anywhere using telephone or video-conferencing technology. If you cannot reach an agreement, a judicial authority will review the documents you have submitted and make a decision so you do not have to go to court.

**ODR is Efficient**  
Mediation sessions are scheduled early in the process so that you can reach an agreement that will work for everyone quickly. Most cases will be resolved 90 days after the case is referred to the ODR program.

This is another initiative that the Judicial Branch has undertaken to enhance access to justice. The vast majority of defendants in these cases are self-represented parties, and the program is both low-cost and convenient.

Parties may file documents online at almost any time and will work with a court mediator in an informal setting to reach an agreement. A judge will decide the outcome of the case if participants cannot reach an agreement. It is anticipated that most cases in the

program will be resolved within 90 days.

For more details:

- [General Information on ODR](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on ODR](#)