



## Notice to Defendant

### You are being sued.

If you do not do anything, the court can enter a judgment against you (the defendant), and the plaintiff (the person suing you) may be able to take money from your pay or your bank account, or attach your house or your car.

The plaintiff has had a state marshal serve (deliver) a copy of the *Summons – Civil* (form JD-CV-1), a complaint, an [Appearance](#) form, this notice, and an *Online Dispute Resolution Answer* (form JD-CV-165).

The plaintiff has agreed to participate in Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), a program offered by the Judicial Branch, to help resolve this case. You do not have to agree to use ODR, but you may want to take advantage of this program. If you do not choose to use ODR, this case will continue in the Superior Court.

### What is Online Dispute Resolution and how can it help me?

ODR is a program that uses specially-trained mediators, simplified forms and less formal procedures that may help you settle certain cases about money in a simple, fast, and low-cost way. These cases are called Contract Collections (C40) cases. ODR may eliminate the need to go to the courthouse, hire a lawyer, speak in front of a judge or spend a lot of time and money preparing and filing papers.

By agreeing to participate in ODR, you give up your right to:

- Have a jury trial or appear in person to present your case to the court at an evidentiary hearing.
- File an appeal from any decision made by the court on your case. The court's decision is final and binding.
- Object to evidence presented by the other side. Both parties will exchange and submit evidence to the court. The court will review the evidence submitted by the parties and determine what is relevant and reliable.

### How do I agree to participate in Online Dispute Resolution?

Whether or not you want to participate in ODR, you must complete the [Online Dispute Resolution Answer](#) (form JD-CV-165). On that form, in Section 1: Online Dispute Resolution Selection, you will be given the choice to participate in ODR or have your case heard in Superior Court under the regular court rules. Make your selection, then complete the form and sign it. Give the original [Online Dispute Resolution Answer](#) to the court with your [Appearance](#) form, and send a copy of each to the plaintiff.

### What happens next?

- If you agree to participate in ODR, you will be contacted by the court. The court will give you a deadline for filing evidence. Before that deadline, you will exchange evidence with the plaintiff and file it with the court. You can file your evidence on paper or electronically. Examples of evidence are receipts, repair orders, warranties, cancelled checks, money orders, bills, contracts, a sworn statement from you or a witness, or any other documents that will prove your case.
- A mediation session will be scheduled so you and the plaintiff can work with a court mediator, by video or telephone conference or in person, to settle your dispute in a way that works best for all parties.
- If you and the plaintiff cannot agree, the court will decide the case based on the papers that you both have filed with the court. In the ODR program, you do not have to go to court for any hearing.

### How do I find out more about Online Dispute Resolution?

Go to [www.jud.ct.gov/ODR](http://www.jud.ct.gov/ODR) to learn more about the Online Dispute Resolution program.

If you need more help, email [ODR@jud.ct.gov](mailto:ODR@jud.ct.gov).

#### ADA NOTICE

The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact a court clerk or an ADA contact person listed at [www.jud.ct.gov/ADA](http://www.jud.ct.gov/ADA).