

NOTICE

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES – MERGER OF COMMITTEE ON COMPLEMENTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION (CDR) AND ARBITRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE; UPDATED CHARGE

The Supreme Court has combined the Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution (CDR) and the Arbitration Advisory Committee, with that merger effective as of September 1, 2019. The merged committee will retain the Committee on CDR's odd-year two-year reporting and appointment cycle (September 1, 2019 through August 21, 2021).

In conjunction with the merger of its two committees, the Court approved an updated charge for the 2019-2021 term and beyond. The Committee will conduct a statewide inventory and review of all CDR programs in the Civil and Family Divisions of the Superior Court, as well as local initiatives underway or proposed for the Municipal Courts; enhance the collection of statewide data regarding the participation in and success of CDR programs; recommend a uniform, statewide approach to addressing the qualifications of court-appointed neutrals; and expand protocols for resolution of complaints against mediators and arbitrators.

The Court merged the two committees to ensure consistency in how these groups address their similar and overlapping goals. The combination of the two similarly-focused committees will enable professional mediators and arbitrators to learn from each other and to maximize the strengths of their respective areas of expertise; will support efficiency and consistency in addressing common concerns; and will promote unified review and evaluation of CDR programs to respond to immediate and recurrent questions. It also will support the Judiciary's efforts to collect data necessary to meaningfully assess the crucial elements of all CDR programs, such as when in the litigation process court-referred CDR is most effective in resolving a case, and how judges and court staff can ensure sufficient case management and discovery exchange prior to referral in order to increase the likelihood of success.

Questions regarding the Committee on CDR should be directed to Kathleen Gaskill, Manager, Volunteer/CDR Services, at (609) 815-2900 x52372.



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: August 26, 2019