

NOTICE

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

COURT-CONNECTED DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES APPLICATION PROCESS FOR APPROVED PROGRAM STATUS

The Chief Justice for Administration and Management, pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution, Supreme Judicial Court Rule 1:18, hereby announces the commencement of the Uniform Application Process for programs seeking approval to receive referrals for court-connected alternative dispute resolution services in the Trial Court Departments.

1. Eligibility. Pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution a court-connected referral for dispute resolution services can be made only to programs. A program is approved by the Chief Justice of the applicable Trial Court Department in which it seeks to provide services.

2. Approval of Programs. All programs currently approved to provide court-connected alternative dispute resolution services in the Trial Court must reapply and any new programs seeking approval to provide court-connected dispute resolution services must apply for approval.

3. Applicable Dates.

- A.** A program seeking approval shall, no later than **November 23, 2009**, submit the Program Application to the Trial Court Department or Departments in which the program seeks to receive referrals.
- B.** The Department Chief Justices will make approval decisions no later than **January 1, 2010**.
- C.** An approved program will be eligible to provide services commencing on **January 1, 2010**.
- D.** A program, unless no longer approved under the Uniform Rules of Dispute Resolution, retains its approval for a period of three years ending on **December 31, 2012**.

4. Obtaining Forms. The application may be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Trial Court or on the Massachusetts Trial Court web site at [www.mass.gov/courts/admin/adr.html.]

5. Questions. Any questions about this notice may be directed to Heather Batherson, Support Services Department at the Administrative Office of the Trial Court (617-878-0339) or heather.batherson@jud.state.ma.us.

Robert A. Mulligan
Chief Justice for Administration and Management
Dated: October 8, 2009