

## NOTICE

### CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

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

**The Chief Justice of the Trial Court, 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 that have been approved. 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 16, 2012**, 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, 2013**.
- C.** An approved program will be eligible to provide services commencing on **January 1, 2013**.
- 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, 2015**.

**4. Obtaining Forms.** The application may be obtained at the Massachusetts Trial Court website at [[www.mass.gov/courts/admin/adr.html](http://www.mass.gov/courts/admin/adr.html)]

**5. Questions.** Any questions about this notice may be directed to Heather Batherson, Support Services Department (617-878-0339) or [heather.batherson@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:heather.batherson@jud.state.ma.us).

**Robert A. Mulligan**  
**Chief Justice of the Trial Court**  
**Dated: September 24, 2012**