



Press Release

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Online Dispute Resolution Platform for Self-Represented Litigants

Anchorage, Alaska, January 16, 2024 – The Alaska Court System is proud to announce the launch of AK ODR, its Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform. AK ODR is a pilot project helping people resolve their disputes through mediation and negotiation by agreement. At this time, AK ODR offers self-represented litigants a free or very low-cost way to conveniently negotiate or mediate online small claims and debt collection disputes. There are several benefits to using AK ODR for Alaskans, including:

- **Convenient:** AK ODR allows people to resolve their disputes online, without having to travel or meet in person. This saves time and money. When using AK ODR, each participant provides information about what they want to reach an agreement and the other participant responds within a defined time period. If they can't reach agreement by negotiating with each other, a mediator can help with the discussion to see if they can reach an agreement and avoid a court case or a trial.
- **Accessible:** Anyone with access to the internet and a computer can use AK ODR.
- **Quick:** AK ODR may speed up the resolution process because it's available 24/7, and participants can respond at their own pace, reducing delays. If the participants reach an agreement, they can be done and avoid a court case. Or if they want a court order, it is fast-tracked to a judge for review online.
- **Free or Cheap:** AK ODR is free to use. And if parties don't have a court case and want a judge to sign their agreement to be a court order, the cost is only \$25 (instead of the regular court case filing fee which would be \$50-\$150). Using AK ODR saves people legal fees, travel costs, and having to take time off of work or find childcare.
- **Confidential:** Discussions about settling your case on the AK ODR platform are confidential, so offers you make to the other participant to resolve your dispute may not be used later in court.
- **Assistance:** AK ODR provides free agreement forms with common resolution options and mediators to help participants resolve their dispute.
- **Reduced Stress:** AK ODR can be less intimidating than a court case, and reduce stress and anxiety for participants.

[Learn more about AK ODR](#)
[Access and use AK ODR](#)

About the Alaska Court System: The mission of the [Alaska Court System](#) is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.