

## **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)**

Alternative dispute resolution includes any procedure that is designed to resolve disputes, except court procedures. Arbitration and mediation are alternatives to civil litigation and are the primary ADR procedures.

Arbitration is a process of resolving a dispute or a grievance outside a court system by presenting it for decision to an impartial third party. Both sides in the dispute usually must agree in advance to the choice of arbitration and certify that they will abide by the arbitrator's decision.

Mediation is a process in which parties engage a third person to help them negotiate a voluntary settlement of their dispute. Pursuant to Local Rule 83, "mediation shall be the common and preferred means of alternative dispute resolution."

For more information concerning the ADR program in this Court, please refer to [Local Rule 83](#) and [Order Designating ADR Coordinator](#).

