

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Expansion of Online Dispute Resolution in Misdemeanor Cases

PHOENIX – Arizona’s Administrative Office of the Courts announces the availability of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) for misdemeanor cases in limited jurisdiction courts. Five courts are offering ODR to eligible defendants in misdemeanor cases: Flagstaff Justice Court, Williams Justice Court, Page Magistrate Court, Peoria Municipal Court, and Goodyear Municipal Court. By the fall of 2021, ODR will be available in 22 courts around Arizona. The ODR service is provided at no cost to the parties.

Based on the nature of the offense and other factors, each participating court identifies cases that are eligible for ODR. If the defendant’s cell phone number is on file with the court, the defendant will receive a text message notification when the court marks the case as eligible for ODR. Defendants choose to use ODR by registering and completing their arraignment through ODR, eliminating the need to appear at the courthouse for preliminary proceedings. Pretrial conferences between the defendant or defense attorney and the prosecutor are conducted through ODR, and hearings are primarily conducted telephonically or virtually. The parties are notified of the case’s progress by email, and defendants also receive text message notifications.

The ODR service is accessible from a computer or mobile device and is available 24 hours a day. In some instances, ODR may eliminate the need for in-person appearances at the courthouse and cases may be resolved through a combination of ODR participation and telephonic or virtual appearances. For more information about participating in ODR, contact the Administrative Office of the Courts at 602-452-3519.

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