

Case Categories Exempt From CDR

Directive #3-84
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The Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution, chaired by Justice Marie L. Garibaldi, has developed proposals for several alternative dispute resolution programs: arbitration of auto negligence cases valued at \$15,000 or less; mediation of child custody and visitation matters; community dispute resolution committees to hear certain municipal court matters; and a comprehensive Justice Center offering arbitration, custody mediation, numerous non-judicial techniques for handling complex cases, and mediation of small claims and neighborhood disputes. These proposals have been approved by the Court, and are being implemented on a pilot basis in selected counties, with the exception of the automobile arbitration program which will be implemented statewide in the new court term.

Certain types of cases, however, are not appropriate for mandatory alternative dispute resolution, and accordingly, are to be excluded from the operations of the above-noted programs, and of any other experimental alternative dispute resolution programs which are in place or are contemplated in any vicinage. Specifically Mt. Laurel cases, although complex, will not be handled in the complex case component of the Comprehensive Justice Center, which is to be established in Burlington County, and actions brought under the Domestic Violence Act may be subject to mediation only with the consent of both parties.

EDITOR-S NOTE

In the second paragraph, the reference to a three judge panel for Mt. Laurel cases has been deleted. By directive #5-90 the Chief Justice eliminated regionalized management of Mt. Laurel cases by three designated judges and called for a Mt. Laurel judge to be designated in each vicinage.