

MiCOURT

Case Management System

JIS

Alternative

Dispute Resolution

MiCOURT automates the random selection process.

MiCOURT can save time and effort of retaining lists of evaluators.

MiCOURT Automates Manual Procedures

The purpose of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is to facilitate agreement between litigants in a civil case without having to go to trial. The court assigns an ADR Clerk to track ADR cases in the case management system.

There are two different types of ADR services: 1) Mediation and 2) Case Evaluation. The main difference between Mediation and Case Evaluation is that a Mediation case is handled outside of the court by one (1) mediator, whereas the Case Evaluation case has three (3) evaluators (which we call a panel), and the court handles the scheduling of their meetings with the participants of the case at the court (but outside of the courtroom).

Currently, ADR Clerks assign case evaluators manually. MiCOURT allows auto assignment of case evaluators. Since ADR panels normally meet on certain days, MiCOURT makes it easy to use already scheduled panels to auto-assign case evaluators.

If a panel member needs to be changed because of an attendance issue, the evaluator can be changed on the panel and all the cases will be automatically updated. If one panel needs to be changed because of a conflict on just one case, the evaluator can be changed in just one case and MiCOURT will not update all the other cases.

The best part of ADR auto assign is that you can add one panel to a date and all hearings on that date will be automatically assigned that panel. (Don't worry: you can always override an auto-selection.)

If a Case Evaluator is not available at certain times, the ADR Clerk can block time for a Case Evaluator so that the application will not auto-assign a case to a case evaluator who is not available.

MiCOURT ADR also tracks receipt of fees, and submission of briefs.

Types of Evaluators

Case Evaluation ADR uses four different evaluator types:

- Plaintiff – These evaluators represent the plaintiff's side of the case
- Defendant – These evaluators represent the defendant's side of the case
- Neutral – These evaluators represent neither side. They are there to be objective to help come up with a fair resolution for all case participants
- Special evaluators – Special evaluators do not represent a particular side. They are there to give professional knowledge of the issues at hand. For example, a doctor or specialist called in to answer questions in a medical injury case would be considered a special evaluator.



Assigning panels

A case evaluation panel is a group of three evaluators: Plaintiff, Defendant and Neutral

Current process

1. Schedule a date
2. Select one evaluator from each of the three type lists
3. Verify evaluator calendars
 - a. If there is a schedule conflict a different evaluator is selected to add into the panel for that date
4. Once a panel is determined, the names are manually entered into each case that is scheduled to be heard on that date

Keeping track of all of the different evaluators can be confusing and time consuming. The clerk must manually track evaluators, to determine if they have been previously scheduled or if the evaluator had a block on their schedule and was not scheduled for the last panel.

Automated Random Draw: Problem Solved!

MiCOURT Process:

- MiCOURT creates an automated, random draw for ADR. This helps streamline the ADR process for the clerk.
- MiCOURT allows clerk to track blocked time for evaluators.
- MiCOURT takes into account previously assigned evaluators when auto-assigning.
- MiCOURT allows the clerk to track panels assigned to specific dates.
- MiCOURT allows the clerk to automatically draw appropriate evaluators into a panel with one click.
- MiCOURT automatically assigns the appropriate panel information into the ADR case.
- MiCOURT saves the time and effort of retaining lists of evaluators.

For more information about MiCOURT features and benefits or the migration plan, contact us at JISRollout@courts.mi.gov.

The Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Division of the State Court Administrative Offices (SCAO) provides technical and automated information system support for the Michigan Supreme Court, SCAO, and the trial courts throughout the state.



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