

COLORADO JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Office of Dispute Resolution

ODR Policies and Procedures Manual
Subject: **ODR Program Description and Mission**

Date: July 1, 2011

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

The Office of Dispute Resolution (“ODR”) was created by the Colorado Dispute Resolution Act (“CDRA”) in 1983.¹ ODR exists to establish and make available dispute resolution programs and services within the Colorado Judicial Branch. Through its 60+ contract Neutrals (mediators and other dispute resolution professionals), ODR offers mediation and other services across the state. ODR also provides information about dispute resolution in Colorado and nationally, and coordinates training for judicial officers and court staff. For example:

- ODR ensures the availability of qualified, trained dispute resolution professionals in every judicial district in Colorado.
- ODR provides affordable dispute resolution services, including mediation, throughout the state of Colorado and ensures access to services for indigent parties;
- ODR assists the courts in designing, implementing, and administering dispute resolution programs.

The Colorado Dispute Resolution Act, Section 13-22-305, C.R.S., requires the Director to establish rules, regulations and procedures for all dispute resolution programs.² The “dispute resolution services” referred to in this Manual include mediation and other ancillary forms of dispute resolution as provided in Section 13-22-313, C.R.S.³

This ODR Policies and Procedures Manual (hereinafter “Manual”) applies to all Program Administrators, Managing Mediators, mediators and other ADR professionals on contract with the Office of Dispute Resolution (hereinafter “Neutrals”). Local district programs may also develop policies and procedures different from, but not inconsistent with, the provisions of this manual.

¹ The Colorado Dispute Resolution Act, C.R.S. 13-22-301, *et seq.*, states:

There is hereby established in the Judicial Department the Office of Dispute Resolution, the head of which shall be the Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution, who shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

² For all office of dispute resolution programs, the director shall establish rules, regulations, and procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes.

³ Such forms of alternative dispute resolution may include, but are not limited to: arbitration, early neutral evaluation, med-arb, mini-trial, multi-door courthouse concepts, settlement conference, special master, summary jury trial, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution which the court deems to be an effective method for resolving the dispute in question.