

CLACKAMAS COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL LOCAL RULES
Chapter 13: Arbitration
(2/1/10)

SLR 13.005: ARBITRATION

Clackamas Circuit Court maintains an arbitration program in accordance with UTCR Chapter 13.

SLR 13.031: ARBITRATION COMMISSION

To ensure continuity, the attorney Arbitration Commission Board Members currently appointed will serve one, two and three year terms so that their terms will expire in alternate years. Thereafter, appointments will be staggered so that a new attorney board member is appointed yearly for a three year term. The presiding judge will replace the judicial representative(s) as needed and the trial court administrator is a standing ex officio member.

SLR 13.051: TRIAL DATE

In all cases subject to mandatory arbitration a trial date will be set in accordance with the court's regular trial setting procedure and UTCR 7.020(5). All requests to reset a trial date must comply with UTCR 6.030 and SLR 6.031.

SLR 13.091: ARBITRATORS

(1) In addition to the requirements set forth in UTCR 13.090, to qualify as an arbitrator, a person must sign and file an application to be placed on the list of arbitrators. The Arbitration Commission may adopt additional requirements for inclusion or retention on the list of arbitrators, including experience, training and continuing education.

(2) The parties may stipulate to any arbitrator, including a non-lawyer arbitrator or a lawyer arbitrator who practices outside of Clackamas County.

(3) An arbitrator who is no longer willing or able to serve as an arbitrator shall immediately notify the arbitration clerk.

(4) An arbitrator may refuse to serve on an individual case, but must notify the arbitration clerk immediately.

(5) If such disqualification or refusal occurs, the arbitrator must immediately notify all parties and return all appointment materials in the case to the court.

SLR 13.121: COMPENSATION OF ARBITRATOR

The Arbitration Commission has set the arbitrator's fee at a rate of \$125.00 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000.00 except upon a showing of extraordinary conditions and with the approval of the Presiding Judge of the Clackamas County Circuit Court.

Within 14 days of the appointment of the arbitrator, each party must tender to the arbitrator the sum of \$350.00 as preliminary payment unless a party has secured a fee waiver or deferral, in which case the party must submit a copy of the order waiving or deferring arbitration fees to the arbitrator.

SLR 13.122: INDIGENT PARTIES

(1) In the event funds are available under ORS 36.420, indigent parties may seek deferral or waiver of arbitration fees by applying within 14 days from the date the case is transferred to arbitration. Applications are available at the Clackamas County Circuit Court, Accounting, Traffic and Collections Unit, Room 104, 807 Main St., Oregon City, Oregon 97045. The fee deferral application and order must be submitted to the Clackamas County Circuit Court, Accounting, Traffic and Collections Unit, Room 104 in accordance with SLR 2.025.

(2) In the event funds are available under ORS 36.420 and a fee deferral or waiver has been granted by the court, the arbitrator shall be reimbursed after completion of the arbitration, filing of the arbitration award, and submission of a request for payment to the Trial Court Administrator for Clackamas County Circuit Court.

(3) The arbitrator must submit a copy of the order deferring or waiving fees of the indigent party with the request for payment, which must be in the form of a certificate and include the following:

- (a) Case identifying information;
- (b) Total hours of service the arbitrator provided; and
- (c) The share of those hours chargeable to the indigent party.

SLR 13.161: LOCATION OF ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS

Unless otherwise stipulated by all parties, arbitration proceedings shall be scheduled at a location in Clackamas County, Oregon. The arbitrator may schedule telephone conference calls to deal with scheduling and procedural issues.

UNIFORM TRIAL COURT RULES
Chapter 13: Arbitration
(8/1/09)

UTCR 13.010 APPLICATION OF CHAPTER

(1) This UTCR chapter applies to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 and Acts amendatory thereof but, except as therein provided, does not apply to any of the following:

- (a) Arbitration by private agreement.
- (b) Arbitration under any other statute.
- (c) Matters exempt by ORS 36.400.
- (d) Any civil action exempt from arbitration by action of a presiding judge under ORS 36.405.

(2) This UTCR chapter on arbitration is not designed to address every question that may arise during the arbitration hearing. These rules give considerable discretion to the arbitrator. The arbitrator should not hesitate to exercise that discretion.

UTCR 13.030 ARBITRATION COMMISSION

(1) Each court must establish an arbitration commission.

(2) The function of the arbitration commission is to supervise the arbitration program and to give advisory opinions relating to arbitration.

(3) The arbitration commission must include both judge and attorney members and, as an ex officio member, the court administrator.

UTCR 13.040 RELATIONSHIP TO COURT JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE RULES

(1) A case filed in the circuit court remains under the jurisdiction of that court in all phases of the proceedings, including arbitration. Except for the authority expressly given to the arbitrator by these rules, all issues shall be determined by the court of jurisdiction.

(2) Until a case is assigned to the arbitrator, Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure apply. After a case is assigned to an arbitrator, these arbitration rules apply except where an arbitration rule states that a Rule of Civil Procedure applies.

(3) Once a case is assigned to arbitration, all motions against the pleadings, all motions for discovery, and all similar pretrial motions not then resolved will be submitted to the arbitrator only and determined by the arbitrator. The arbitrator's determination, however, will apply only during the arbitration proceeding. If a request for trial *de novo* is filed, such

matters may be raised again. If the arbitrator's decision on a pretrial motion will prejudice a party on trial *de novo*, that party may file an appropriate motion with the court.

UTCR 13.050 ARBITRATION WHEN CASE ALREADY SET FOR TRIAL

(1) Cases will not be assigned to arbitration within 63 days of the set trial date, except by order of the court.

(2) A court order is not necessary if by stipulation the parties agree upon an arbitrator and agree upon a hearing date at least 28 days before the scheduled trial date.

UTCR 13.060 PLEADINGS IN CASES SUBJECT OR NOT SUBJECT TO ARBITRATION

(1) All civil actions (including domestic relations cases described under ORS 36.405(1)(b)) will be assigned to arbitration unless one of the following occurs:

(a) The title of a pleading contains the words "CLAIM NOT SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION" in compliance with subsection (3) of this rule.

(b) Any party files a notice, prior to the assignment to arbitration, that the case is not subject to mandatory arbitration. The notice must state grounds sufficient to exempt the case from mandatory arbitration.

(c) The court orders the case removed from mandatory arbitration under ORS 36.405(2).

(2) Notice under part (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this rule does not prevent any party from asserting by appropriate motion, that the case is subject to mandatory arbitration.

(3) A party must place one or the other of the following in the title of a pleading in the case (including a claim, counterclaim, cross claim, third-party claim, petition, and response): "SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION" or "CLAIM NOT SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION." When a party places the "NOT SUBJECT" language in the title of the pleading, the party gives notice to the court and other parties that the case is exempted from mandatory arbitration either clearly by statute or under these rules. This language must not be in the title of a pleading for any other purpose. A party's signature on pleadings containing such language constitutes the party's certificate of such notice under ORCP 17. In all other instances, the party will place the language in the title indicating the case is subject to mandatory arbitration.

UTCR 13.070 EXEMPTION FROM ARBITRATION

Within 14 days after notification by the court that the case is assigned to arbitration, any party seeking exemption from arbitration must file and serve a "Motion for Exemption from Arbitration."

UTCRC 13.080 ASSIGNMENT TO ARBITRATOR

(1) The parties may select an arbitrator by stipulation.

(2) At the time of giving notice of the assignment to arbitration, the trial court administrator shall furnish a list of proposed arbitrators as well as a copy of the procedures for the selection of arbitrators and for setting an arbitration hearing. The procedures for selection of arbitrators shall be established by the arbitration commission.

(3) An arbitrator shall be assigned under (1) or (2) of this rule within 21 days after the assignment to arbitration.

UTCRC 13.090 ARBITRATORS

(1) Unless otherwise ordered or stipulated, an arbitrator must be a member of the Oregon State Bar, who has been admitted to any Bar for a minimum of five years, or a retired or senior judge. The parties may stipulate to a nonlawyer arbitrator.

(2) An arbitrator who is not a retired or senior judge or stipulated nonlawyer arbitrator must be in good standing with the Oregon State Bar at the time of each appointment. During any period of suspension from the practice of law or in the event of disbarment, an arbitrator will be removed from the court's list of arbitrators and may reapply when the attorney is reinstated or readmitted to the bar.

(3) Arbitrators will conduct themselves in the manner prescribed by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

UTCRC 13.100 AUTHORITY OF ARBITRATORS

An arbitrator has the authority to do all of the following, but may exercise the authority conferred only after the case is assigned to a specific arbitrator and any disputes over the assignment have been settled:

(1) Decide procedural issues arising before or during the arbitration hearing, except issues relating to arbitrability or the qualification of an arbitrator. The court may entertain a challenge to the qualification of an arbitrator on grounds that could not be discovered prior to assignment of the arbitrator to the case.

(2) Invite, with reasonable notice, the parties to submit trial briefs.

(3) After notice to the parties, examine any site or object relevant to the case.

(4) Issue a subpoena, enforceable in the manner described in ORS 36.340.

(5) Administer oath or affirmations to witnesses.

(6) Rule on the admissibility of evidence in accordance with these rules.

(7) Determine the facts, apply the law and make an award; perform other acts as authorized by these rules.

(8) Determine the place, time and procedure to present a motion before the arbitrator, including motions for Summary Award (known as Summary Judgment under ORCP).

(9) Require a party, an attorney advising each party, or both, to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, caused by the failure of such party or attorney or both, to obey an order of the arbitrator.

(10) Award attorney fees as authorized by these rules, by contract or by law.

UTCR 13.110 ARBITRATOR'S OATH

Arbitrators will be required to execute the following oath in writing on a form provided by the trial court administrator at the time of appointment:

I solemnly affirm that I will faithfully and fairly hear and examine the matters in controversy and that I will make a just award to the best of my understanding.

UTCR 13.120 COMPENSATION OF ARBITRATOR

(1) The arbitration commission shall establish a compensation schedule for arbitrators. If the arbitrator suggests that extraordinary conditions justify a different fee, and the parties concur, the fee may be adjusted accordingly. If the parties, or any of them, do not concur, the arbitrator shall direct an inquiry to the court for determination of the appropriate fee.

(2) Within 14 days of the appointment of the arbitrator, each party must tender to the arbitrator a pro rata share of the preliminary payment for the arbitrator. Any deposit in excess of the arbitrator's actual fee will be refunded to the parties. Regardless of whether the arbitration hearing is conducted, the parties must pay a proportionate share of the arbitrator's fee. The arbitrator must submit to each party an itemized statement.

(3) Relief from the payment of arbitration fees, in whole or in part, as provided for in ORS 36.420(3) must be applied for immediately upon a case or a small claim becoming eligible for arbitration. The court will provide the arbitrator with a copy of any order waiving or deferring all or any part of the fees.

(4) Any dispute as to the amount of the arbitrator's fee must be submitted to the court.

(5) The arbitrator's fee may be considered a recoverable item of costs.

(6) At the conclusion of the arbitration process, the court may enter a judgment in the arbitrator's favor and against any party who has not paid the arbitrator's fee in accordance with the schedule established under paragraph (1).

UTCR 13.130 RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ARBITRATOR, PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS

Unless all parties otherwise agree, no disclosure of any offers or settlement made by any party shall be made to the arbitrator prior to the announcement of the award. Neither counsel nor a party may communicate with the arbitrator, regarding the merits of the case, except in the presence of, or on reasonable notice to, all other parties.

Except for Judicial Rules 3, 4, and 5 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, all rules of professional conduct concerning Bench and Bar apply in the arbitration process.

UTCR 13.140 DISCOVERY

Discovery shall be conducted in accordance with Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure, and all motions shall be determined by the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall balance the benefits of discovery against the burdens and expenses. The arbitrator shall consider the nature and complexity of the case, the amount of controversy, and the possibility of unfair surprise that may result if discovery is restricted.

UTCR 13.150 SUBPOENA

In accordance with the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure, a lawyer of record or the arbitrator may issue a subpoena for the attendance of a witness at the arbitration hearing or for the production of documentary evidence at the hearing.

UTCR 13.160 SCHEDULING OF THE HEARING

(1) The arbitrator shall set the time, date and place of hearing and shall give reasonable notice of the hearing date to the parties and comply with ORS 36.420. The arbitrator shall also give notice of the hearing date and any continuance to the trial court administrator.

(2) A court may adopt a supplementary local rule establishing a deadline for the arbitration hearing and a process for obtaining a postponement or continuance. A supplementary local rule may not allow the arbitration process to extend more than six months from the date the case is assigned to an arbitrator. In the absence of a supplementary local rule adopted pursuant to this section, the requirements set forth below in sections (3) and (4) shall apply.

(3) Except for good cause shown, the hearing must be scheduled to take place not sooner than 14 days, or later than 49 days, from the date of assignment of the case to the arbitrator. The parties may stipulate to a postponement or continuance only with the permission of the arbitrator. Such postponements or continuances must also be within the 49-day period. Any continuances or postponements beyond such period require the arbitrator to obtain approval of the presiding judge. The arbitrator must give notice of any continuance to the trial court administrator.

(4) Continuances and postponements shall not be granted except in the more unusual circumstances. Approximately two months are allocated for the arbitration process. The arbitrator is given the power to enforce the rules and will be required to maintain the

schedule.

UTCRC 13.170 PREHEARING STATEMENT OF PROOF

(1) At least 14 days prior to the date of the arbitration hearing, each party must submit to the arbitrator and serve upon all other parties all the following:

(a) A list of all exhibits to be offered showing or accompanied by a description of the document and the name, address and telephone number of its author or maker and complying with UTCRC 13.190(2)(c). Each party, upon request, must make any exhibits available for inspection and copying by other parties.

(b) A list of witnesses the party intends to call at the arbitration hearing with their addresses and telephone numbers and a statement of the matters about which each witness will be called to testify.

(c) An estimate as to the expected length of the hearing.

(2) A party failing to comply with this rule, or failing to comply with a discovery order, may not present at the hearing any witness or exhibit required to be disclosed or made available, except with the permission of the arbitrator.

(3) Each party must also furnish the arbitrator, at least 14 days prior to the arbitration hearing, with copies of pleadings and other documents contained in the court file which that party deems relevant.

UTCRC 13.180 CONDUCT OF HEARING

(1) Arbitration hearings shall be informal and expeditious. The arbitrator shall exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of interrogating witnesses and presenting evidence so as to do the following:

(a) Make the interrogation and presentation effective for the ascertainment of the facts.

(b) Avoid needless consumption of time.

(c) Protect witnesses from harassment or undue embarrassment.

(2) A witness shall be placed under oath or affirmation prior to presenting testimony, a violation of which oath shall be deemed contempt of court, in addition to other penalties that may be provided by law. The arbitrator may question the witness. The extent to which the rules of evidence will be applied shall be determined in the discretion of the arbitrator.

(3) The hearing may be recorded electronically or otherwise by any party or the arbitrator. The cost of such recording is not a recoverable item of cost.

UTCR 13.190 CERTAIN DOCUMENTS ADMISSIBLE

(1) The documents listed in subsection (2) of this rule, if relevant, are admissible at an arbitration hearing, but only if:

(a) The party offering the document has included in the prehearing statement of proof a description of the document and the name, address and telephone number of its author or maker, at least 14 days prior to the hearing; and

(b) The party offering the document promptly has made available, after request, to all other parties, all other documents from the same author or maker.

(2) The following documents are subject to this rule:

(a) A bill, report, chart or record of a hospital, doctor, dentist, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physical therapist, psychologist or other health care provider on a letterhead or a printed bill.

(b) A bill for drugs, medical appliances or other related expenses on a letterhead or a printed bill.

(c) A bill for, or an estimate of, property damage on a letterhead or a printed bill. In the case of an estimate, the party intending to offer the estimate must forward with the prehearing statement of proof under UTCR 13.170 a statement indicating whether or not the property was repaired, and if it was, whether the estimated repairs were made in full or in part, attaching a copy to the receipted bill showing the items of repair and the amount paid.

(d) A police, weather, wage loss or traffic signal report or standard life expectancy table.

(e) A photograph, x-ray, drawing, map, blueprint or similar documentary evidence.

(f) The written statement of any witnesses, including the written report of an expert witness which may include a statement of the expert's qualifications, and including a statement of opinion which the witness would express if testifying in person, if it is made by affidavit or by declaration under penalty of perjury.

(g) A document not specifically covered by any of the foregoing provisions, but having equivalent circumstantial guarantees of trustworthiness, the admission of which would serve the policies, purposes and interests of justice.

(3) Any other party may subpoena the author or maker of a document admissible under this rule, at that party's expense, and examine the author or maker as if under cross-examination.

UTCRC 13.200 ABSENCE OF PARTY AT HEARING

- (1) The arbitration hearing may proceed and an award may be made in the absence of any party who, after due notice, fails to participate or to obtain a continuance or postponement.
- (2) If a defendant is absent, the arbitrator shall require the plaintiff to submit evidence sufficient to support an award.
- (3) In a case involving more than one defendant, the absence of a defendant does not preclude the arbitrator from assessing as part of the award damages against the defendant or defendants who are absent.
- (4) The arbitrator, for good cause shown, may allow an absent party an opportunity to appear at a subsequent hearing before making an award.

UTCRC 13.210 FORM AND CONTENT OF AWARD

- (1) The award must be in writing and prepared on a form prescribed by the court and signed by the arbitrator.
- (2) The arbitrator shall determine all issues raised by the pleadings, including a determination of any damages, costs and attorney fees where allowed under applicable law.
- (3) Findings of fact, conclusions of law and written opinions are not required.
- (4) The award must contain the caption of the case and all the following information:
 - (a) The date of the hearing, if any.
 - (b) The prevailing party and the amount of relief awarded.
 - (c) Whether any part of the award was based on the failure of any party to appear and the identity of that party.
 - (d) The name and office address of the arbitrator.
 - (e) Provision for costs and for attorney fees where allowed under applicable law.
 - (f) Interest in accordance with applicable law specifying the rate of interest and the date from which it accrues.
- (5) Within 7 days after the conclusion of the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall send the award to the parties without filing with the court and shall establish procedures for determining attorney fees and costs.
- (6) In dissolution cases, the arbitrator shall send the award to the parties within 7 days after

the conclusion of the arbitration hearing and shall direct a party to prepare and submit a form of judgment. The arbitrator, upon request of any party, shall give the parties an opportunity to be heard on the form of judgment. The arbitrator shall then approve a form of judgment and file the award, along with the approved form of judgment, per UTCR 13.220.

1988 Commentary: It is the intent of the Committee that 13.210(2) applies in dissolution cases.

1994 Commentary: The Committee intends that the arbitrator determine all costs to which the prevailing party may be entitled, including the prevailing fee and share of the arbitrator's fee.

UTCRC 13.220 FILING OF AN AWARD

(1) The arbitrator shall file the award with the trial court administrator, together with proof of service of a copy of the award, upon each party within the following times after the completion of the arbitration hearing:

(a) In dissolution cases within 21 days.

(b) In all other cases within 14 days.

(2) An arbitrator may request an extension of time for filing of the award by presenting a written *ex parte* request to the trial court administrator. The trial court administrator may grant or deny the request, subject to review of the presiding judge. The arbitrator shall give the parties notice of any extension granted.

(3) The arbitrator may file with the trial court administrator and serve upon the parties an amended award to correct an obvious error made in stating the award if done within the time for filing an award or upon application to the court to amend.

(4) After the award is filed, the arbitrator must return all documents and exhibits to the parties who originally offered them. All other documents and materials relating to the case must be delivered to the trial court administrator. The parties must retain all exhibits returned by the arbitrator until a final judgment is entered in the case.

UTCRC 13.240 JUDGMENT ON AWARD

If no request for trial *de novo* is filed within the time established by ORS 36.425(3), the arbitration decision and award will be entered and have the effect provided in that statute.

UTCRC 13.250 REQUEST FOR TRIAL DE NOVO

(1) A party who qualifies under ORS 36.425(2) may obtain a trial *de novo* on the case determined by completing the service, filing, payment of trial or jury fee and deposit as required under ORS 36.425(2).

(2) In addition to the provisions under ORS 36.425 relating to a trial *de novo*, the following provisions apply:

(a) In addition to filing a written notice of appeal and request for trial *de novo* with the trial court administrator, the party must serve on the parties a copy of the written notice of appeal and request for a trial *de novo* filed with the trial court administrator, and proof of such service must be filed with the trial court administrator.

(b) When cases are consolidated for arbitration and a party has filed an appeal from the arbitration award in one or more of the consolidated cases, any other party who otherwise qualifies under ORS 36.425(2) may serve and file with the trial court administrator a request for trial *de novo*, with proof of service on all other parties, within 20 days from the filing of the arbitration award or within two judicial days after the service of the initial written request for trial *de novo*, notwithstanding the lapse of 20 days from the filing of the arbitration award.

(c) If the trial *de novo* request is withdrawn, or abandoned, such appealing party must obtain permission of the court or there must be a stipulation of all parties to the abandonment of the appeal and the terms thereof.

(d) Cross appeal is not necessary to preserve issues raised in a counterclaim, because the trial *de novo* encompasses all claims raised by any party in the particular case appealed.

(e) The court may assess statutory costs against a party who withdraws a request for trial *de novo*.

UTCR 13.260 PROCEDURE AT TRIAL *DE NOVO*

The trial court administrator must seal any award if a trial *de novo* is requested. Neither judge nor jury will be informed of the arbitration result. The sealed arbitration award will not be opened until after the verdict is received and filed in a jury trial or until after the judge has rendered a decision in a court trial.

UTCR 13.280 TRIAL DOCKET

Every case assigned to arbitration shall maintain its approximate position on the civil trial docket as if the case had not been assigned to arbitration, unless, at the discretion of the court, the docket position should be modified.

UTCR 13.300 PRETRIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES AND ARBITRATION

Cases assigned to arbitration or the pendency of an arbitration hearing does not exclude a case from participating in a court pretrial settlement conference.

OREGON REVISED STATUTES 36.400, et seq.
Court Arbitration Program
(2009)

ORS 36.400 Mandatory arbitration programs.

- (1) A mandatory arbitration program is established in each circuit court.
- (2) Rules consistent with ORS 36.400 to 36.425 to govern the operation and procedure of an arbitration program established under this section may be made in the same manner as other rules applicable to the court and are subject to the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- (3) Each circuit court shall require arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 in matters involving \$50,000 or less.
- (4) ORS 36.400 to 36.425 do not apply to appeals from a county, justice or municipal court or actions in the small claims department of a circuit court. Actions transferred from the small claims department of a circuit court by reason of a request for a jury trial under ORS 46.455, by reason of the filing of a counterclaim in excess of the jurisdiction of the small claims department under ORS 46.461, or for any other reason, shall be subject to ORS 36.400 to 36.425 to the same extent and subject to the same conditions as a case initially filed in circuit court. The arbitrator shall not allow any party to appear or participate in the arbitration proceeding after the transfer unless the party pays the arbitrator fee established by court rule or the party obtains a waiver or deferral of the fee from the court and provides a copy of the waiver or deferral to the arbitrator. The failure of a party to appear or participate in the arbitration proceeding by reason of failing to pay the arbitrator fee or obtain a waiver or deferral of the fee does not affect the ability of the party to appeal the arbitrator's decision and award in the manner provided by ORS 36.425. [Formerly 33.350; 1993 c.482 §1; 1995 c.618 §10; 1995 c.658 §30a; 1997 c.46 §§3,4; 2005 c.274 §1]

ORS 36.405 Referral to mandatory arbitration; exemptions.

- (1) Except as provided in ORS 30.136, in a civil action in a circuit court where all parties have appeared, the court shall refer the action to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 if either of the following applies:
 - (a) The only relief claimed is recovery of money or damages, and no party asserts a claim for money or general and special damages in an amount exceeding \$50,000, exclusive of attorney fees, costs and disbursements and interest on judgment.
 - (b) The action is a domestic relations suit, as defined in ORS 107.510, in which the only contested issue is the division or other disposition of property between the parties.
- (2) The presiding judge for a judicial district may do either of the following:

(a) Exempt from arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 a civil action that otherwise would be referred to arbitration under this section.

(b) Remove from further arbitration proceedings a civil action that has been referred to arbitration under this section, when, in the opinion of the judge, good cause exists for that exemption or removal.

(3) If a court has established a mediation program that is available for a civil action that would otherwise be subject to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425, the court shall not assign the proceeding to arbitration if the proceeding is assigned to mediation pursuant to the agreement of the parties. Notwithstanding any other provision of ORS 36.400 to 36.425, a party who completes a mediation program offered by a court shall not be required to participate in arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425. [Formerly 33.360; 1995 c.455 §2a; 1995 c.618 §11; 1995 c.658 §31a; 1995 c.781 §32; 2005 c.274 §2; 2009 c.83 §3]

ORS 36.410 Stipulation for arbitration; conditions; relief.

(1) In a civil action in a circuit court where all parties have appeared and agreed to arbitration by stipulation, the court shall refer the action to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 if:

(a) The relief claimed is more than or other than recovery of money or damages.

(b) The only relief claimed is recovery of money or damages and a party asserts a claim for money or general and special damages in an amount exceeding \$50,000, exclusive of attorney fees, costs and disbursements and interest on judgment.

(2) If a civil action is referred to arbitration under this section, the arbitrator may grant any relief that could have been granted if the action were determined by a judge of the court. [Formerly 33.370; 1995 c.618 §12; 1995 c.658 §32; 2005 c.274 §3]

ORS 36.415 Arbitration after waiver of amount of claim exceeding \$50,000; motion for referral to arbitration.

(1) In a civil action in a circuit court where all parties have appeared, where the only relief claimed is recovery of money or damages, where a party asserts a claim for money or general and special damages in an amount exceeding \$50,000, exclusive of attorney fees, costs and disbursements and interest on judgment, and where all parties asserting those claims waive the amounts of those claims that exceed \$50,000, the court shall refer the action to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425. A waiver of an amount of a claim under this section shall be for the purpose of arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 only and shall not restrict assertion of a larger claim in a trial de novo under ORS 36.425.

(2) In a civil action in a circuit court where all parties have appeared, where the only relief claimed is recovery of money or damages and where a party asserts a claim for money or general and special damages in an amount exceeding \$50,000, exclusive of attorney fees,

costs and disbursements and interest on judgment, any party against whom the claim is made may file a motion with the court requesting that the matter be referred to arbitration. After hearing upon the motion, the court shall refer the matter to arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 if the defendant establishes by affidavits and other documentation that no objectively reasonable juror could return a verdict in favor of the claimant in excess of \$50,000, exclusive of attorney fees, costs and disbursements and interest on judgment. [Formerly 33.380; 1995 c.618 §13; 1995 c.658 §33; 2005 c.274 §4]

ORS 36.420 Notice of arbitration hearing; open proceeding; compensation and expenses. (1) At least five days before the date set for an arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall notify the clerk of the court of the time and place of the hearing. The clerk shall post a notice of the time and place of the hearing in a conspicuous place for trial notices at the principal location for the sitting of the court in the county in which the action was commenced.

(2) The arbitration proceeding and the records thereof shall be open to the public to the same extent as would a trial of the action in the court and the records thereof.

(3) The compensation of the arbitrator and other expenses of the arbitration proceeding shall be the obligation of the parties or any of them as provided by rules made under ORS 36.400. However, if those rules require the parties or any of them to pay any of those expenses in advance, in the form of fees or otherwise, as a condition of arbitration, the rules shall also provide for the waiver in whole or in part, deferral in whole or in part, or both, of that payment by a party whom the court finds is then unable to pay all or any part of those advance expenses. Expenses so waived shall be paid by the state from funds available for the purpose. Expenses so deferred shall be paid, if necessary, by the state from funds available for the purpose, and the state shall be reimbursed according to the terms of the deferral. [Formerly 33.390; 1993 c.482 §2]

ORS 36.425 Filing of decision and award; notice of appeal; trial de novo; attorney fees and costs; effect of arbitration decision and award.

(1) At the conclusion of arbitration under ORS 36.400 to 36.425 of a civil action, the arbitrator shall file the decision and award with the clerk of the court that referred the action to arbitration, together with proof of service of a copy of the decision and award upon each party. If the decision and award require the payment of money, including payment of costs or attorney fees, the decision and award must be substantially in the form prescribed by ORS 18.042.

(2)

(a) Within 20 days after the filing of a decision and award with the clerk of the court under subsection (1) of this section, a party against whom relief is granted by the decision and award or a party whose claim for relief was greater than the relief granted to the party by the decision and award, but no other party, may file with the clerk a written notice of appeal and request for a trial de novo of the action in the court on all issues of law and fact. A copy of the notice of appeal and request for a

trial de novo must be served on all other parties to the proceeding. After the filing of the written notice a trial de novo of the action shall be held. If the action is triable by right to a jury and a jury is demanded by a party having the right of trial by jury, the trial de novo shall include a jury.

(b) If a party files a written notice under paragraph (a) of this subsection, a trial fee or jury trial fee, as applicable, shall be collected as provided in ORS 21.270.

(c) A party filing a written notice under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall deposit with the clerk of the court the sum of \$150. If the position under the arbitration decision and award of the party filing the written notice is not improved as a result of a judgment in the action on the trial de novo, the clerk shall dispose of the sum deposited in the same manner as a fee collected by the clerk. If the position of the party is improved as a result of a judgment, the clerk shall return the sum deposited to the party. If the court finds that the party filing the written notice is then unable to pay all or any part of the sum to be deposited, the court may waive in whole or in part, defer in whole or in part, or both, the sum. If the sum or any part thereof is so deferred and the position of the party is not improved as a result of a judgment, the deferred amount shall be paid by the party according to the terms of the deferral.

(3) If a written notice is not filed under subsection (2)(a) of this section within the 20 days prescribed, the court shall cause to be prepared and entered a judgment based on the arbitration decision and award. A judgment entered under this subsection may not be appealed.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure:

(a) If a party requests a trial de novo under the provisions of this section, the action is subject to arbitration under the provisions of ORS 36.405 (1)(a), the party is entitled to attorney fees by law or contract, and the position of the party is not improved after judgment on the trial de novo, the party shall not be entitled to an award of attorney fees or costs and disbursements incurred by the party before the filing of the decision and award of the arbitrator, and shall be taxed the reasonable attorney fees and costs and disbursements incurred by the other parties to the action on the trial de novo after the filing of the decision and award of the arbitrator.

(b) If a party requests a trial de novo under the provisions of this section, the action is subject to arbitration under ORS 36.405 (1)(a), the party is not entitled to attorney fees by law or contract, and the position of the party is not improved after judgment on the trial de novo, pursuant to subsection (5) of this section the party shall be taxed the reasonable attorney fees and costs and disbursements of the other parties to the action on the trial de novo incurred by the other parties after the filing of the decision and award of the arbitrator.

(c) If a party requests a trial de novo under the provisions of this section, the action is subject to arbitration under ORS 36.405 (1)(b), and the position of the party is not improved after judgment on the trial de novo, the party shall not be entitled to an award of attorney fees or costs and disbursements and shall be taxed the costs and disbursements incurred by the other parties after the filing of the decision and award

of the arbitrator.

(5) If a party is entitled to an award of attorney fees under subsection (4) of this section, but is also entitled to an award of attorney fees under contract or another provision of law, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees pursuant to the contract or other provision of law. If a party is entitled to an award of attorney fees solely by reason of subsection (4) of this section, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees not to exceed the following amounts:

(a) Twenty percent of the judgment, if the defendant requests the trial de novo but the position of the defendant is not improved after the trial de novo; or

(b) Ten percent of the amount claimed in the complaint, if the plaintiff requests the trial de novo but the position of the plaintiff is not improved after the trial de novo.

(6) Within seven days after the filing of a decision and award under subsection (1) of this section, a party may file with the court and serve on the other parties to the arbitration written exceptions directed solely to the award or denial of attorney fees or costs. Exceptions under this subsection may be directed to the legal grounds for an award or denial of attorney fees or costs, or to the amount of the award. Any party opposing the exceptions must file a written response with the court and serve a copy of the response on the party filing the exceptions. Filing and service of the response must be made within seven days after the service of the exceptions on the responding party. A judge of the court shall decide the issue and enter a decision on the award of attorney fees and costs. If the judge fails to enter a decision on the award within 20 days after the filing of the exceptions, the award of attorney fees and costs shall be considered affirmed. The filing of exceptions under this subsection does not constitute an appeal under subsection (2) of this section and does not affect the finality of the award in any way other than as specifically provided in this subsection.

(7) For the purpose of determining whether the position of a party has improved after a trial de novo under the provisions of this section, the court shall not consider any money award or other relief granted on claims asserted by amendments to the pleadings made after the filing of the decision and award of the arbitrator. [Formerly 33.400; 1993 c.482 §3; 1995 c.455 §3; 1995 c.618 §14a; 1995 c.658 §34; 1997 c.756 §§1,2; 2003 c.576 §170]