



Oregon Judicial Department

Media Release

Mission Statement:

As a separate and independent branch of government, our mission is to provide fair and accessible justice services that protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare, and inspire public confidence.

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APPROVED CHANGES TO THE UTCR EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2023

Chief Justice Flynn has signed CJO 23-020, which approved changes to the Uniform Trial Court Rules (UTCRC), effective August 1, 2023 (and one change effective February 1, 2024).

Changes of special note: require a person remotely observing or participating in a proceeding to obtain permission before transmitting an electronic writing directly and specifically to a witness, until the witness is excused; in criminal cases, allow a party to request that a pretrial motion hearing be held prior to the date of trial, if so requested, the hearing must be held at least 7 days before trial, absent good cause; allow parties to agree to appear remotely to resolve cases outside of the court with jurisdiction over the county where the defendant is in custody; remove plea agreements and negotiations from the type of activity that must be completed pursuant to certain deadlines; allow persons to request accommodation for expression of milk; allow joint petitions in certain domestic relations actions; and allow courts to accept oral Informal Domestic Relations Trial (IDRT) related waivers and to allow a party to opt in or out of the IDRT process at any time prior to trial.

The approved changes are available online at www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/utcr/Pages/currentrules.aspx. The [Preface](#) to the 2023 UTCRC includes detailed explanations of the changes.

The UTCRC Committee's next meeting is October 19, 2023. The committee welcomes proposals for changes to the trial court rules. Submit proposals by August 31, 2023, to utcr@ojd.state.or.us, or mail them to UTCRC Reporter, Office of the State Court Administrator, Supreme Court Building, 1163 State Street, Salem, OR 97301-2563.

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