



Notice to Parties of Online Dispute Resolution

Some Indiana courts use online dispute resolution (ODR) in certain small claims cases. ODR is free to use and gives the two sides of a case a neutral, online space to solve their differences outside of court. **Your case qualifies for ODR.**

How to sign up

To opt in, you must create an account and agree to participate. To get to the ODR site, go online to:

courts.in.gov/odr

and select your county. To create an account, you will be asked for an email address and your case number.

If you fail to sign up at least three days before your hearing, your case will proceed along the traditional court path.

[See reverse to learn how ODR works](#)

How to opt out

If you are unable or do not wish to participate in ODR—or if you have already started the ODR process but wish to stop—you can opt out and your case will take a traditional court path, including a court date and possibly a trial.

To opt out you can do one of the following:

- Ignore this notice and don't register for the ODR system
- Sign up for the ODR system but click "Opt Out" any time during negotiations
- File a motion with the court stating the reason you cannot or do not wish to participate



courts.in.gov/odr

⚙️ How ODR works

ODR gives you and the other party in your case the chance to solve your dispute outside of court and possibly avoid appearing in court. Instead of waiting for the hearing date set by the court, you and the other party can chat online—in a neutral space not visible to the court or the judge—to discuss the claim and try to reach an agreement.

If you and the other party can agree, ODR provides a form for both of you to fill out and sign, then one of you can file the agreement form with the court. If approved by the court, the judge will sign the agreement, update your case that an agreement was made, and send a copy to both you and the other party.

At this point, the agreement becomes a binding court order.

Whether or not you participate in ODR is your choice, and the choice you make will not influence the court's decision one way or the other. But if you and the other party are both comfortable participating and are able to agree, you might be able to solve the dispute faster than with a traditional court hearing. And it might be more convenient for you too, because the ODR system is available 24/7, so you can use it on your schedule.

★ Example agreements:

- If you owe money to the other party, and you both agree on the amount owed, you could then agree on a payment plan
- If you owe money to the other party, but you disagree on the amount owed, you could try to work out an amount acceptable to both of you and then agree on a payment plan
- If you cannot come to an agreement on any terms, you still have the right to go to court
- If a judgment has already been established by a court order, you may be able to negotiate a payment plan to satisfy the judgment

🔪 Trial

If you and the other party cannot come to an agreement using ODR—or one party opts out of ODR—the case moves forward to an initial court date and a trial. This court date is on the summons you received. Also, the court sends notification of the date, time, and place of the court hearing by email or mail to the address on file with the court clerk. **If you do not attend the hearings, the court may rule against you without hearing your side of the dispute.**

Need Help ?

For information on finding legal help, contact your local bar association or see on.in.gov/legal-help

For help finding low cost or no cost legal aid, and for self-service forms, see indianalegalhelp.org