

EMPLOYMENT

Employment/Workplace

Arbitration Rules and Mediation Procedures



American Arbitration Association®

Available online at adr.org
Rules Amended and Effective May 1, 2025

If you would like to speak to a member of the AAA® Employment Team, please visit <https://go.adr.org/employment-contact.html>.

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Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules and Mediation Procedures



About the American Arbitration Association

Trusted by businesses and individuals worldwide, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) provides alternative dispute resolution (ADR), a generally faster and more cost-effective alternative to litigation. Backed by AAA's decades of experience, our impartial arbitrators and mediators help resolve disputes of all sizes—from straightforward cases to complex challenges.

As a not-for-profit organization, the AAA is committed to delivering fair, efficient, and tailored processes while upholding the highest standards of neutrality and integrity. A broad range of perspectives strengthens the ADR process. Since the 1960s, we've taken active steps to expand the pool of qualified arbitrators and mediators to better reflect the varied backgrounds and experiences across society. This ongoing effort helps ensure our services are fair, responsive, representative, and aligned with the communities we serve.

Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules

R-1. Applicable Rules of Arbitration

- (a) The parties shall be deemed to have made these Rules a part of their arbitration agreement whenever they have provided for arbitration by the American Arbitration Association (hereinafter "AAA") under its *Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules and Mediation Procedures* or for arbitration by the AAA of an employment dispute without specifying particular rules*. These Rules and any amendment to them shall apply in the form in effect at the time the administrative requirements are met for a Demand for Arbitration or Submission Agreement received by the AAA. To ensure that you have the most current information, see our website at www.adr.org. Any disputes regarding which AAA rules apply shall be initially decided by the AAA.
- (b) The AAA will administer disputes arising out of employment agreements under these Rules and the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule. The AAA will also apply these Rules and the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule to any dispute

between an independent contractor (working or performing as an individual and not incorporated) and a business or organization when the dispute involves work or work-related claims under independent contractor agreements, including any statutory claims.*

- (c) The AAA has the initial authority to apply or not to apply the Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules and/or the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule. If either party disagrees with the AAA's decision, the objecting party must submit the objection by the due date for filing an answer to the demand for arbitration. If an objection is filed, the arbitrator shall have the authority to make the final decision on which AAA rules and fee schedule will apply.
- (d) The parties may agree to modify these Rules, but must agree in writing. If they want to make changes after the arbitrator is appointed, any changes may be made only with the approval of the arbitrator. Any changes must still follow the due process principles of the Employment Due Process Protocol.

*A dispute that arises from an agreement that does not meet the definition as defined in Rule R-1(b) but that names the Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules will be administered under the AAA Rules and fee schedule applicable to the dispute as determined by the AAA.

R-2. Judicial Intervention

If, within 30 calendar days after the AAA's commencement of administration, a party seeks judicial intervention with respect to a pending arbitration and provides the AAA with documentation that judicial intervention has been sought, the AAA will suspend administration for 90 calendar days to permit the party to obtain an order regarding the arbitration from the court. The AAA may extend that time period on its own initiative or at the request of a party for good cause shown. Any request by a party to extend the time period must be made before the expiration of the initial suspension or any approved extension.

R-3. AAA Authority and Delegation of Duties

When parties agree to arbitrate under these Rules, or when they provide for arbitration by the AAA and an arbitration is initiated under these Rules, they thereby authorize the AAA to administer the arbitration. The authority and duties of the AAA are prescribed in the agreement of the parties and in these Rules and may be carried out through such of the AAA's representatives as it may direct. The AAA may, in its discretion, assign the administration of an arbitration to any of its offices. Arbitrations administered under these Rules shall only be administered by the AAA or by an individual or organization authorized by the AAA to do so.

R-4. Filing Requirements and Procedures

(a) Filing Requirements

- i) Arbitration under an arbitration agreement naming the AAA shall be initiated by the initiating party (referred to as the “claimant”) filing with the AAA a Demand for Arbitration, the administrative filing fee, and a copy of the applicable arbitration agreement. The filing fee must be paid before a matter is considered properly filed.
- ii) Arbitration pursuant to a court order shall be initiated by the initiating party filing with the AAA a Demand for Arbitration, the administrative filing fee, a copy of the court order, or a copy of any applicable arbitration agreement from the parties’ contract, which provides for arbitration.

If the court order directs that a specific party is responsible for the filing fee, it is the responsibility of the filing party either to make such payment to the AAA and seek reimbursement as directed in the court order or to make other such arrangements so that the filing fee is submitted to the AAA with the Demand.

- iii) Parties to an existing dispute who have agreed to arbitration administered by the AAA may commence an arbitration under these Rules by filing a written submission agreement and the administrative filing fee. To the extent that the parties’ submission agreement differs from the procedures set forth in these Rules, those differences shall be clearly stated in the submission agreement.
- iv) Information to be included with any arbitration filing includes:
 - a) the name of each party;
 - b) the address of each party and, if known, the telephone number and email address;
 - c) if applicable, the name, address, telephone number, and email address of any known representative for each party;
 - d) a statement setting forth the nature of the claim, including the relief sought and the amount involved, if known at the time of filing;
 - e) the requested location of the hearing if an in-person hearing is requested;
 - f) a brief explanation of the dispute and specification of the amount of money in dispute, if applicable; and
 - g) a statement of the relief sought.
- v) When filing a Demand, answer, or counterclaim, the parties are encouraged to provide sufficient detail to make the dispute clear to the arbitrator.
- vi) Cases that do not meet these filing requirements will be returned and will not be considered to have been filed with the AAA. Such cases may be resubmitted with the necessary information, documents, and fees.

(b) Filing Procedures

- i) The initiating party may file or submit a dispute to the AAA in the following manner:

 - a) through AAA WebFile®, located at www.adr.org; or
 - b) by filing the complete Demand or Submission with any AAA office, regardless of the intended locale of hearing, with payment to follow as directed by the AAA; or
 - c) by emailing the complete Demand or Submission to casefiling@adr.org, with payment to follow as directed by the AAA.
- ii) The claimant must notify, in writing, the party or parties that the case is filed against (referred to as the “respondent”) that it wishes to arbitrate a dispute and shall simultaneously provide a copy of the Demand and any supporting documents to the opposing party or parties. In the event the parties dispute which party or parties should be the claimant(s) and which party or parties should be the respondent(s), the AAA may make an initial determination, subject to a final determination by the arbitrator.
- iii) Any documents, notices, or process necessary for the filing of an arbitration under this Rule may be served on a party:

 - a) by mail addressed to the party or its authorized representative at their last known address;
 - b) by electronic service/email, with the prior agreement of the party being served;
 - c) by personal service; or
 - d) by any other service methods provided for under the applicable procedures of the courts of the state where the party to be served is located.
- iv) The AAA shall provide notice to the parties (or their representatives if so named) of the receipt of the Demand or Submission when the administrative filing requirements have been satisfied. The date on which the filing requirements are satisfied shall establish the date of filing the dispute for administration. However, all disputes in connection with the AAA’s determination of the date of filing may be decided by the arbitrator.
- (c) Any dispute regarding whether a condition precedent has been met may be raised with the arbitrator for determination.
- (d) The AAA has the authority to make an administrative determination whether the filing requirements set forth in this Rule have been met.
- (e) The AAA shall have the discretion, subject to the final determination of an arbitrator once appointed, to administer multiple claims filed by the same party arising out of the same contract as a single case. The AAA shall have the

discretion, subject to the final determination of an arbitrator once appointed, to require that multiple claims filed by the same party arising out of separate contracts be filed and administered as individual cases.

- (f) Any decision made by the AAA regarding filing requirements and procedures shall not interfere with the arbitrator's authority to determine jurisdiction pursuant to Rule R-7.

R-5. Answers and Counterclaims

- (a) The respondent may submit a written response to the Demand, known as an "answer," within 14 calendar days of being requested by the AAA, copying all other parties to the arbitration.
- (b) The respondent may also file a counterclaim, which is the respondent's Demand against the claimant. If the respondent files a counterclaim, the counterclaim must briefly explain the dispute, specify the amount involved, and the relief being sought. The claimant may file an answer or reply in response to the counterclaim with the AAA within 14 calendar days after the AAA sends notice of the filing of the counterclaim.
- (c) If no answer is filed within 14 calendar days, the AAA will assume that the respondent does not agree with the claimant's claim. The case will move forward after 14 calendar days, regardless of whether an answer is filed.
- (d) If the respondent alleges that a different arbitration provision is controlling, the AAA will make an initial administrative determination regarding the controlling arbitration provision, subject to a final determination by the arbitrator.

R-6. Changes of Claim

- (a) Once a Demand has been filed, any new claims or counterclaims, or changes to a claim or counterclaim, must be made in writing and sent to the AAA. The party making the new or different claim or counterclaim shall send a copy to the opposing party. As with the original Demand or counterclaim, a party shall have 14 calendar days from the date the AAA notifies the parties it received the new or different claim or counterclaim to file an answer with the AAA.
- (b) If an arbitrator has already been appointed, a new or different claim or counterclaim may only be filed if the arbitrator allows it.

R-7. Jurisdiction

- (a) The arbitrator shall have the power to rule on their own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence, scope, or validity of the arbitration agreement or the arbitrability of any claim or counterclaim.
- (b) The arbitrator shall have the power to determine the existence or validity of a contract of which an arbitration clause forms a part. Such an arbitration clause

shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the contract. A decision by the arbitrator that the contract is null and void shall not, for that reason alone, render invalid the arbitration clause.

- (c) A party must object to the jurisdiction of the arbitrator or to the arbitrability of a claim or counterclaim no later than the established due date for the filing of the answer to the claim or counterclaim that gives rise to the objection. The arbitrator may rule on such objections as a preliminary matter or as part of the final award.

R-8. Interpretation and Application of Rules

The arbitrator shall interpret and apply these Rules as they relate to the arbitrator's powers and duties. When there is more than one arbitrator, and a difference arises among them concerning the meaning or application of these Rules, it shall be decided by a majority vote. If that is not possible, either an arbitrator or a party may refer the question to the AAA for a final decision.

R-9. Administrative Conference with the AAA

Before the appointment of the arbitrator, any party may request, or the AAA, in its discretion, may schedule an administrative conference with a representative of the AAA and the parties and/or their representatives. The purpose of the administrative conference is to organize and expedite the arbitration, explore its administrative aspects, establish the most efficient means of selecting an arbitrator, and consider mediation or other non-binding processes as a dispute resolution option. There is no administrative fee for this service.

R-10. Declining or Ceasing Administration

- (a) The AAA, in its sole discretion, may make the administrative determination to decline to accept a Demand for Arbitration, stop the administration of an ongoing arbitration, and/or decline to administer future cases from a party under the following circumstances:
 - i) where a party or the party's representative fails to abide by the *American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution Standards of Conduct for Parties and Representatives*.
 - ii) where a party fails to submit payment of fees requested in accordance with the Rules or Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule.
- (b) In the event the AAA makes the administrative determination to cease or decline administration of a case due to any of the reasons outlined in this Rule, the parties may choose to submit their dispute to the appropriate court.

R-11. Mediation

During the AAA's administration of the arbitration or at any time while the arbitration is pending, the AAA may offer mediation to the parties, or the parties may request mediation. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, mediation will be administered by the AAA and conducted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the AAA's Employment Mediation Procedures. Absent an agreement of the parties to the contrary, the mediation shall take place concurrently with the arbitration and shall not serve to delay the arbitration proceedings. The parties shall confirm to the AAA the completion of any mediation. Unless agreed to by all parties and the neutral, the mediator and arbitrator shall not be the same individual.

R-12. Fixing of Locale

- (a) The parties may mutually agree on the locale where the arbitration is to be held.
- (b) When the parties' arbitration agreement requires a specific locale, absent the parties' agreement to change it, or a determination by the arbitrator that applicable law requires a different locale, the locale shall be that specified in the arbitration agreement.
- (c) If an in-person hearing will be held, and the parties disagree as to the locale, the AAA may initially determine the place of arbitration, subject to the power of the arbitrator, after their appointment, to make a final determination on the locale.
- (d) Any disputes regarding the locale that are to be decided by the AAA must be submitted to the AAA and all other parties within 14 calendar days after the AAA sends notice of the filing of the Demand or by the date established by the AAA. Disputes regarding locale shall be determined in the following manner:
 - i) When the parties' arbitration agreement is silent or ambiguous with respect to locale, and if the parties disagree as to the locale, the AAA shall initially determine the locale of arbitration, subject to the power of the arbitrator after appointment to make a final determination on the locale.
 - ii) If the parties' arbitration agreement specifies more than one possible locale, the filing party may select any of the specified locales at the time of filing, subject to the power of the arbitrator to determine the locale.

R-13. Number and Appointment of Neutral Arbitrators

- (a) If the arbitration agreement does not specify the number of arbitrators or the parties do not agree otherwise, the dispute shall be heard and determined by one arbitrator. The use of terms such as "the arbitrator," "an arbitrator," or "the

arbitrators” in the arbitration agreement, without further specifying the number of arbitrators, shall not be deemed by the AAA to reflect an agreement as to the number of arbitrators.

- (b)** If the parties have not appointed an arbitrator and have not provided any method of appointment, the arbitrator shall be appointed in the following manner:
- i)** Shortly after it receives the Demand and determines the filing requirements have been met, the AAA shall send simultaneously to each party a letter containing an identical list of names of persons experienced in employment law or workplace disputes chosen from the AAA’s Employment Panel. The parties are encouraged to agree to an arbitrator from the submitted list and to advise the AAA of their agreement.
 - ii)** If the parties are unable to agree upon an arbitrator, each party to the dispute shall have 14 calendar days from the transmittal date in which to strike names objected to, number the remaining names in order of preference, and return the list to the AAA. The parties are not required to exchange selection lists. If a party does not return the list within the time specified, all persons named therein shall be deemed acceptable. At its discretion, the AAA may limit the number of strikes permitted.
 - iii)** From among the persons who have been approved on the lists returned by the parties, and in accordance with the designated order of mutual preference, the AAA shall invite the acceptance of an arbitrator to serve. If the parties fail to agree on any of the persons named, or if acceptable arbitrators are unable to act, or if for any other reason the appointment cannot be made from the submitted list, the AAA shall have the power to make the appointment from among other members of the panel without the submission of additional lists.
 - iv)** The AAA may, upon request of a party within the time set to return their list or upon its own initiative, supplement the list of proposed arbitrators with persons from the AAA’s National Roster of Arbitrators (“Roster”) to allow the AAA to respond to the particular needs of the dispute. In multi-arbitrator disputes, at least one of the arbitrators shall be experienced in the field of employment law or workplace disputes.
 - v)** Unless the parties agree otherwise when there are two or more claimants or two or more respondents, the AAA may appoint all of the arbitrators.

R-14. Party-Appointed Arbitrators

- (a)** If the agreement of the parties names an arbitrator or specifies a method of appointing an arbitrator, that designation or method shall be followed.
- (b)** Where the parties have agreed that each party is to name one arbitrator, the

arbitrators so named must meet the standards of Rule R-17(a) with respect to impartiality and independence unless the parties have specifically agreed pursuant to Rule R-17(c) that the party-appointed arbitrators are to be non-neutral and need not meet those standards. The notice of appointment, with the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the arbitrator, shall be filed with the AAA by the appointing party. Upon the request of any appointing party, the AAA shall submit a list of members of its Roster from which the party may, if it so desires, make the appointment.

- (c) If the agreement specifies a period of time within which an arbitrator shall be appointed, and any party fails to make the appointment within that period, the AAA shall make the appointment.
- (d) If no period of time is specified in the agreement, the AAA shall notify the party to make the appointment. If, within 14 calendar days after such notice has been sent, an arbitrator has not been appointed by a party, the AAA shall make the appointment.

R-15. Appointment of Chairperson by Party-Appointed Arbitrators, Parties, or the AAA

- (a) Where there is a panel of three or more arbitrators, one arbitrator will be designated as the panel chairperson. Such designation will be according to the terms of the parties' arbitration agreement. However, if the parties' arbitration agreement does not specify how the chairperson is to be selected, the chairperson can be designated, at the AAA's discretion, by the party-appointed arbitrators, the parties, the panel, or the AAA.
- (b) If the arbitration agreement specifies a period of time for appointment of the chairperson and no appointment is made within that period or any agreed extension, the AAA may appoint the chairperson. If no period of time is specified for appointment of the chairperson and the party-appointed arbitrators or the parties do not make the appointment within 14 calendar days from the date of the appointment of the last party-appointed arbitrator, the AAA may appoint the chairperson.
- (c) Absent the agreement of the parties, the chairperson shall be appointed from the Roster, and if the party-appointed arbitrators are to select the chairperson, the AAA shall furnish to the party-appointed arbitrators, in the manner provided in Rule R-13(b), a list selected from the Roster, and the appointment of the chairperson shall be made as provided in that Rule.

R-16. Disclosures

- (a) Any person appointed or to be appointed as an arbitrator, as well as the parties and their representatives, shall disclose to the AAA any circumstance likely to give rise to justifiable doubt as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence, including any bias or any financial or personal interest in the

result of the arbitration or any past or present relationship with the parties or their representatives. Such obligation shall remain in effect throughout the arbitration. Failure on the part of a party or a representative to comply with the requirements of this Rule may result in the waiver of the right to object to an arbitrator in accordance with Rule R-39.

- (b) Upon receipt of such information from the arbitrator or another source, the AAA shall communicate the information to the parties and, if it deems it appropriate to do so, to the arbitrator and others.
- (c) Disclosure of information pursuant to this Rule R-16 is not an indication that the arbitrator considers the disclosed circumstance likely to affect impartiality or independence.

R-17. Disqualification of Arbitrator

- (a) Any arbitrator shall be impartial and independent and shall perform their duties with diligence and in good faith, and shall be subject to disqualification for:
 - i) partiality or lack of independence,
 - ii) inability or refusal to perform their duties with diligence and in good faith, or
 - iii) any grounds for disqualification provided by applicable law.
- (b) Upon objection of a party to the continued service of an arbitrator, or on its own initiative, the AAA shall determine whether the arbitrator should be disqualified under the grounds set out above and shall inform the parties of its decision, which shall be final.
- (c) The parties may agree in writing, however, that arbitrators directly appointed by a party pursuant to Rule R-14 shall be non-neutral, in which case such arbitrators need not be impartial or independent and shall not be subject to disqualification for partiality or lack of independence.

R-18. Communication with Arbitrator

- (a) No party and no one acting on behalf of any party shall communicate *ex parte* with an arbitrator or a candidate for arbitrator concerning the arbitration, except that a party, or someone acting on behalf of a party, may communicate *ex parte* with a candidate for direct appointment pursuant to Rule R-14 in order to advise the candidate of the general nature of the controversy and of the anticipated proceedings and to discuss the candidate's qualifications, availability, or independence in relation to the parties or to discuss the suitability of candidates for selection as the chairperson where the parties or party-designated arbitrators are to participate in that selection.

Rule R-18(a) does not apply when the parties have agreed in writing under Rule R-17(c) that the arbitrators directly appointed by the parties are non-neutral.

R-19. Vacancies

- (a) If, for any reason, an arbitrator is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of the office, the AAA may declare the office vacant. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with applicable provisions of these Rules.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy in a panel of neutral arbitrators after the hearings have commenced, the remaining arbitrator or arbitrators may continue with the hearing and determination of the controversy unless the parties agree otherwise.

R-20. Preliminary Hearing

- (a) As promptly as practicable after the appointment of the arbitrator, a preliminary hearing may be held among the parties and/or their representatives and the arbitrator. The preliminary hearing will be conducted via conference call unless the arbitrator determines that it shall be held by video conference.
- (b) During the preliminary hearing, the parties and the arbitrator shall discuss the future conduct of the case, including clarification of issues and claims, scheduling of the hearings, prehearing exchange of information, and any other preliminary matters as appropriate to achieve a fair, efficient, and economical resolution of the dispute. Procedures P-1 and P-2 of these Rules address the issues to be considered at the preliminary hearing.
- (c) The arbitrator shall promptly issue written orders that state the arbitrator's decisions made during or as a result of the preliminary hearing. The arbitrator may also conduct additional preliminary hearings if the need arises.

R-21. Exchange of Information

- (a) The arbitrator shall manage any necessary exchange of information among the parties, including depositions, interrogatories, document production, or other means, with a view to achieving an efficient and economical resolution of the dispute while, at the same time, promoting equality of treatment and safeguarding each party's opportunity to fairly present its claims and defenses.
- (b) The parties shall:
 - i) exchange documents in their possession or custody on which they intend to rely;
 - ii) update their exchanges of documents on which they intend to rely as such documents become known to them;
 - iii) identify the witnesses, if any, they plan to have testify at the hearing.
- (c) The arbitrator may, on application of a party or on the arbitrator's own initiative:
 - i) require the parties, in response to reasonable document requests, to make available to the other party documents in the responding party's possession or custody not otherwise readily available to the party seeking the documents,

and reasonably believed by the party seeking the documents to exist and to be relevant and material to the outcome of disputed issues; and

- ii) require the parties, when documents to be exchanged or produced are maintained in electronic form, to make such documents available in the form most convenient and economical for the party in possession of such documents, unless the arbitrator determines that there is good cause for requiring the documents to be produced in a different form. The parties should attempt to agree in advance upon, and the arbitrator may determine, reasonable search parameters to balance the need for production of electronically stored documents relevant and material to the outcome of disputed issues against the cost of locating and producing them;
 - iii) require such other forms of information exchange as the arbitrator deems necessary.
- (d) The AAA does not require notice of the exchange of information matters and communications unless a dispute arises. At that time, the parties shall notify the AAA of the dispute and any meet and confer efforts so that it may be presented to the arbitrator for determination. The arbitrator has the authority to resolve any disputes between the parties about exchanging information.
- (e) The parties may agree to utilize the applicable AAA Discovery Protocols for Employment Disputes.

R-22. Enforcement Powers of Arbitrator

The arbitrator shall have the authority to issue any orders necessary to enforce the provisions of Rules R-20 and R-21, and any other rule or procedure, and to otherwise achieve a fair, efficient, and economical resolution of the case, including, without limitation:

- (a) conditioning any exchange or production of confidential documents and information, and the admission of confidential evidence at the hearing, on appropriate orders to preserve such confidentiality;
- (b) imposing reasonable search parameters for electronic and other documents if the parties are unable to agree;
- (c) allocating costs of producing documents, including electronically stored documents;
- (d) in the case of willful non-compliance with any order issued by the arbitrator, drawing adverse inferences, excluding evidence and other submissions, and/or making special allocations of costs or an interim award of costs arising from such non-compliance; and
- (e) issuing any other enforcement orders that the arbitrator is empowered to issue under applicable law.

R-23. Date, Time, Place, and Method of Hearing

The arbitrator shall set the date, time, place, and method for each hearing. The hearing shall be held virtually or by other means as approved by the arbitrator unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or the arbitrator decides, upon application of a party, that the hearing shall be in person. The parties shall respond to requests for hearing dates in a timely manner, cooperate in scheduling the earliest practicable hearing date, and adhere to the established hearing schedule. The AAA shall send a notice of hearing to the parties at least 10 calendar days in advance of the hearing date unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

R-24. Attendance at Hearings

The arbitrator and the AAA shall maintain the privacy of the hearings unless the law provides to the contrary. The arbitrator shall have the power to require the exclusion of any witness, other than a party or other essential person, during the testimony of any other witness. The arbitrator shall have the discretion to determine the propriety of the attendance of any other person.

R-25. Representation

- (a) Any party may participate without representation (self-represented) or by counsel or any other representative of the party's choosing, unless such choice is prohibited by applicable law. A party intending to be so represented shall notify the other party and the AAA of the name, telephone number, address, and email address of the representative at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date set for the hearing at which that person is first to appear. When such a representative initiates an arbitration or responds for a party, notice is deemed to have been given.
- (b) While parties do not need an attorney to participate in arbitration, arbitration is a final, legally binding process that may impact a party's rights. As such, parties may want to consider consulting an attorney. For resources that may help a party find an attorney or legal help, please visit our website at www.adr.org.
- (c) A representative may withdraw by filing a notice of withdrawal with the AAA, the arbitrator, and all parties. Such notice must include the name and contact information of any new representative or current contact information for the party. After the appointment of the arbitrator, the arbitrator may decide any disputes regarding whether an attorney may withdraw.

R-26. Oaths

Before proceeding with the first hearing, each arbitrator may take an oath of office and, if required by law, shall do so. The arbitrator may require witnesses to

testify under oath administered by any duly qualified person and, if it is required by law or requested by any party, shall do so.

R-27. Official Record of Proceedings

- (a) Any party desiring a transcribed record of a hearing shall make arrangements directly with a transcriber or transcription service and shall notify the arbitrator and the other parties of these arrangements at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the hearing. The requesting party or parties shall pay the cost of the record.
- (b) No other means of recording any proceeding will be permitted absent the agreement of the parties or per the direction of the arbitrator.
- (c) If the transcript or any other recording is agreed by the parties or determined by the arbitrator to be the official record of the proceeding, it must be provided to the arbitrator and made available to the other parties at the direction of the arbitrator.
- (d) The arbitrator may resolve any disputes with regard to apportionment of the costs of the transcription or other recording.

R-28. Interpreters

If a party wants an interpreter present for any part of the process, that party must make arrangements directly with the interpreter and shall pay for the costs of the service.

R-29. Extensions of Time and Postponements

- (a) The parties may modify by mutual agreement any period of time established by these Rules or the parties' arbitration agreement. The AAA or the arbitrator may, for good cause, extend any period of time established by these Rules, except as set forth in Rule R-44. The AAA shall notify the parties of any extension.
- (b) The arbitrator, for good cause shown, may grant a postponement upon agreement of the parties, the request of a party, or the arbitrator's own initiative.

R-30. Arbitration in the Absence of a Party or Representative

Unless the law provides to the contrary, the arbitration may proceed in the absence of any party or representative who, after due notice, fails to be present or fails to obtain a postponement. An award shall not be based solely on the default of a party. The arbitrator shall require the party who is in attendance to present such evidence as the arbitrator may require for the making of the award.

R-31. Conduct of Proceedings

- (a) The claimant shall present evidence to support its claim. The respondent shall then present evidence to support its defense. Witnesses for each party shall also submit to questions from the arbitrator and the adverse party. The arbitrator has the discretion to vary this procedure, provided that the parties are treated with equality and that each party has the right to be heard and is given a fair opportunity to present its case.
- (b) The arbitrator, exercising their discretion, shall conduct the proceedings with a view to expediting the resolution of the dispute and may direct the order of proof, bifurcate proceedings, and direct the parties to focus their presentations on issues that could dispose of all or part of the case.
- (c) The arbitrator may also allow for some or all of the presentation of evidence by alternative means, including video, audio, or other electronic means other than an in-person presentation. Such alternative means must afford a full opportunity for all parties to present any evidence that the arbitrator deems material and relevant to the resolution of the dispute and, when involving witnesses, provide an opportunity for cross-examination.
- (d) The parties may agree to waive oral hearings in any case.

R-32. Motions

- (a) The arbitrator has the sole discretion to allow or deny the filing of a written motion, and the arbitrator's decision is final.
- (b) Where a party seeks to file a dispositive motion, the arbitrator may allow the filing of, and make rulings upon, a dispositive motion only if the arbitrator determines the moving party has shown that the motion is likely to succeed and to dispose of or narrow the issues in the case.
- (c) Consistent with the goal of achieving an efficient and economical resolution of the dispute, the arbitrator shall consider the time and cost associated with the briefing of a dispositive motion in deciding whether to allow any such motion.

R-33. Evidence

- (a) The parties may offer relevant and material evidence and must produce any evidence the arbitrator decides is necessary to understand and decide the dispute. Following the legal rules of evidence shall not be necessary. All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the arbitrator and all of the parties unless any of the parties is absent, in default, or has waived the right to be present.
- (b) The arbitrator shall determine what evidence will be admitted, what evidence is relevant, and what evidence is material to the case. The arbitrator may also exclude evidence that the arbitrator decides is cumulative or not relevant.
- (c) The arbitrator shall consider applicable principles of legal privilege, such as those that involve the confidentiality of communications between a lawyer and a client.

- (d) An arbitrator or other person authorized by law to subpoena witnesses or documents may do so at the request of any party. If a party requests the arbitrator sign a subpoena, that party shall copy the request to the other parties in the arbitration at the same time it is provided to the arbitrator.
- (e) If a witness whose testimony is represented by a party to be essential is unable or unwilling to testify at the hearing, either in person or through electronic or other means, either party may request that the arbitrator order the witness to appear in person for examination before the arbitrator at a time and location where the witness is willing and able to appear voluntarily or can legally be compelled to do so. Any such order may be conditioned upon payment by the requesting party of all reasonable costs associated with such examination.

R-34. Written Statements and Post-Hearing Evidence

- (a) The arbitrator may receive and consider the evidence of witnesses by written statements rather than in-person testimony but will give this evidence only such credence as the arbitrator decides is appropriate. The arbitrator will consider any objection to such evidence made by the opposing party.
- (b) If the parties agree or the arbitrator decides that documents or other evidence need to be submitted to the arbitrator after the hearing, those documents or other evidence will be filed with the AAA so that they can be sent to the arbitrator. All parties will be given the opportunity to review and respond to these documents or other evidence.

R-35. Interim Measures

- (a) The arbitrator may grant whatever interim measures they decide are necessary, including granting an injunction and ordering that property be protected.
- (b) Such interim measures may take the form of an interim award, and the arbitrator may require a security payment for the costs of such measures.
- (c) When making a decision on an interim measure, the arbitrator may grant any remedy, relief, or outcome that the parties could have received in court.
- (d) A request for interim measures addressed by a party to a judicial authority shall not be deemed incompatible with the agreement to arbitrate or a waiver of the right to arbitrate.

R-36. Emergency Measures of Protection

- (a) A party in need of emergency relief prior to the constitution of the panel may request emergency measures of protection only if the parties either agree post-dispute to allow for emergency measures of protection to be requested or have included a provision in their arbitration agreement that allows for emergency relief.
- (b) A party in need of emergency relief prior to the constitution of the panel

shall notify the AAA and all other parties in writing of the nature of the relief sought and the reasons why such relief is required on an emergency basis. The application shall also set forth the reasons why the party is entitled to such relief. Such notice may be given by email or other reliable means but must include a statement certifying that all other parties have been notified or an explanation of the steps taken in good faith to notify other parties.

- (c) Within one (1) business day of receipt of notice from the AAA initiating the request referenced in section (b) of this Rule, the AAA shall appoint a single emergency arbitrator designated to rule on emergency applications. The emergency arbitrator shall expeditiously disclose any circumstance likely, on the basis of the facts disclosed on the application, to affect such arbitrator's impartiality or independence. Any challenge to the appointment of the emergency arbitrator must be made within one (1) business day of the communication by the AAA to the parties of the appointment of the emergency arbitrator and the circumstances disclosed.
- (d) The emergency arbitrator shall, as soon as possible, but in any event within two (2) business days of appointment, establish a schedule for consideration of the application for emergency relief. Such a schedule shall provide a reasonable opportunity for all parties to be heard but may provide for proceeding by telephone, video conference, or on written submissions as alternatives to a formal hearing. The emergency arbitrator shall have the authority vested in the tribunal under Rule R-7, including the authority to rule on their own jurisdiction, and shall resolve any disputes over the applicability of this Rule R-36.
- (e) If, after consideration, the emergency arbitrator is satisfied that the party seeking the emergency relief has shown that immediate and irreparable loss or damage shall result in the absence of emergency relief, and that such party is entitled to such relief under applicable law, the emergency arbitrator may enter an interim order or award granting the relief and stating the reason therefore.
- (f) Any application to modify an interim award of emergency relief must be based on changed circumstances and may be made to the emergency arbitrator until the non-emergency ("merits") arbitrator is appointed; thereafter, such a request shall be addressed to the merits arbitrator. The emergency arbitrator shall have no further power to act after the merits arbitrator is appointed unless the emergency arbitrator is named as the merits arbitrator or as a member of the panel.
- (g) Any interim award of emergency relief may be conditioned on provision by the party seeking such relief for appropriate security.
- (h) A request for interim measures addressed by a party to a judicial authority shall not be deemed incompatible with this Rule, the agreement to arbitrate or a waiver of the right to arbitrate. If the AAA is directed by a judicial authority to nominate a limited service neutral to consider and report on an application for emergency relief, the AAA shall proceed as provided in this Rule, and the references to the emergency arbitrator shall be read to mean the limited service neutral, except that the limited service neutral shall issue a report rather than an interim award.

- (i) The costs associated with applications for emergency relief shall be apportioned in the same manner as set forth in the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule.

R-37. Closing of Hearing

- (a) The arbitrator must specifically ask all parties whether they have any further proofs to offer or witnesses to be heard. When the arbitrator receives negative replies, or if they are satisfied that the record is complete, the arbitrator will declare the hearing closed.
- (b) If briefs or other written documentation is to be filed by the parties, the hearing shall be declared closed as of the date the arbitrator is satisfied that the record is complete, and such date shall occur no later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the last such submissions or hearing transcript. Absent agreement of the parties, the time that the arbitrator has to make the award begins upon the closing of the hearing.

R-38. Reopening of Hearing

If a party requests that the hearing be reopened, and the arbitrator approves, or if the arbitrator decides to reopen the hearing on their own initiative, the hearing may be reopened at any time before the award is made. If reopening the hearing would prevent the making of the award within the specific time agreed on by the parties in the arbitration agreement, the matter may not be reopened unless the parties agree to an extension of time. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the arbitrator shall have 30 calendar days from the closing of the reopened hearing within which to make an award.

R-39. Waiver of Rules

Any party who proceeds with the arbitration after knowledge that any provision or requirement of these Rules has not been followed, and who fails to state objections in writing, shall be deemed to have waived the right to object.

R-40. Serving of Notice

Except as provided in Rule R-4(b)(iii) for serving the filing of an arbitration, any documents or notices necessary for the continuation of an arbitration under these Rules may be served on a party by mail or email addressed to the party or its representative at the last-known address, provided that reasonable opportunity to be heard with regard to the dispute is or has been granted to the party. The AAA and the arbitrator have the discretion to direct the use of any other methods of communication during the case.

R-41. Communications

- (a) Except as provided in Rule R-18(a), neither a party nor its representative may communicate in any way with an arbitrator or a potential arbitrator about the arbitration outside of the presence of the other parties to the arbitration. Any communications between the parties and the arbitrator shall be conducted through the AAA.
- (b) All written communications addressed to the AAA or to the arbitrator shall be sent at the same time to all parties to the arbitration unless the AAA or arbitrator directs otherwise.
- (c) The failure of a party or its representative to adhere to these guidelines may prevent the AAA or the arbitrator from acting on any requests or objections contained within those communications.
- (d) The AAA may initiate administrative communications with the parties or their representatives either jointly or individually.

R-42. Confidentiality

- (a) Unless otherwise required by applicable law, court order, or the parties' agreement, the AAA and the arbitrator shall keep confidential all matters relating to the arbitration or the award.
- (b) Upon the agreement of the parties or the request of any party, the arbitrator may make orders concerning the confidentiality of the arbitration proceedings and may take measures for protecting trade secrets and confidential information.
- (c) The AAA may choose to publish an award rendered under these Rules; however, the names of the parties and witnesses will be removed from awards that are published.

R-43. Majority Decision

- (a) When the panel consists of more than one arbitrator, unless required by law or by the arbitration agreement or section (b) of this Rule, a majority of the arbitrators must make all decisions.
- (b) Where there is a panel of three arbitrators, absent an objection of a party or another member of the panel, the chairperson of the panel is authorized to resolve any disputes related to the exchange of information or procedural matters without the need to consult the full panel.
- (c) Absent an objection of a party or another member of the panel, the chairperson may sign any order on behalf of the panel.

R-44. Time of Award

The award shall be issued promptly by the arbitrator and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or specified by law, no later than 30 calendar days from the

date the hearing is closed. The AAA may extend the time limit for the rendering of the award only in unusual and extreme circumstances.

R-45. Form of Award

- (a)** Any award shall be in writing and signed by a majority of the arbitrators. Signatures may be executed in electronic or digital form. The award shall be executed in the form and manner required by law.
- (b)** The award shall provide the written reasons for the decision unless the parties all agree otherwise. Any disagreements over the form of the award shall be decided by the arbitrator. If the parties agree to a different form of award, they must so agree in writing prior to the close of the hearings.

R-46. Scope of Award

- (a)** The arbitrator may grant any remedy, relief, or outcome that the parties could have received in court, including awards of attorney's fees and costs, in accordance with applicable law.
- (b)** In addition to a final award, the arbitrator may make other decisions, including interim, interlocutory, or partial rulings, orders, and awards.
- (c)** In any interim, interlocutory, or partial award, the arbitrator may, and in the final award shall, assess the administrative fees, arbitrator compensation, and expenses provided in Rules R-52, R-53, and R-54. The arbitrator may only award administrative fees, arbitrator compensation, or expenses to a business as may be required by applicable law or upon the arbitrator's determination that a claim or counterclaim against the business was filed for purposes of harassment or is patently frivolous.

R-47. Award upon Settlement

- (a)** If the parties settle their dispute during the course of the arbitration and if the parties so request, the arbitrator may set forth the terms of the settlement in a "consent award." A consent award must include an allocation of arbitration costs, including administrative fees and expenses, as well as arbitrator compensation and expenses as set forth in Rule R-46(c).
- (b)** Consent awards will not be made available to the public per Rule R-42(c) unless the parties agree otherwise.

R-48. Delivery of Award to Parties

Parties shall accept as notice and delivery of the award the transmittal of the award in the same manner that the AAA has used to communicate with the

parties throughout the case, including electronic transmission of the award or any other manner that is permitted by law.

R-49. Modification of Award

- (a) Within 20 calendar days after the transmittal of an award, the arbitrator, on their initiative, or any party, upon notice to the other parties, may request that the arbitrator, through the AAA, clarify the award or correct any clerical, typographical, technical, or computational errors in the award. In clarifying the award or correcting clerical, typographical, technical, or computational errors in it, the arbitrator is not empowered to re-determine the merits of any claim already decided.
- (b) The opposing parties shall be given 10 calendar days to respond to the request. The arbitrator shall make a decision on the request within 20 calendar days after the AAA transmits the request and any responses to the arbitrator.
- (c) If applicable law provides a different procedural time frame, that procedure shall be followed.

R-50. Release of Documents

The AAA shall, upon the written request of a party to the arbitration, furnish to that party, at its expense, copies or certified copies of documents in the AAA's possession that are not determined by the AAA to be privileged or confidential.

R-51. Applications to Court and Exclusion of Liability

- (a) No judicial proceeding by a party relating to the subject matter of the arbitration shall be deemed a waiver of the party's right to arbitrate.
- (b) Parties to an arbitration under these Rules shall be deemed to have consented that judgment upon the arbitration award may be entered in any federal or state court having jurisdiction thereof.
- (c) Neither the AAA, AAA employees, nor any arbitrator in a proceeding under these Rules is a necessary or proper party in any judicial proceedings relating to the arbitration.
- (d) Parties to an arbitration under these Rules shall be deemed to have consented that neither the AAA, AAA employees, nor any arbitrator shall be liable to any party in any action for damages, or injunctive or other relief, for any act or omission in connection with any arbitration under these Rules.
- (e) Parties to an arbitration under these Rules may not call the arbitrator, the AAA, or AAA employees as a witness in litigation or any other proceeding relating to the arbitration. The arbitrator, the AAA, and AAA employees are not competent to and may not testify as witnesses in any such proceeding.

R-52. Administrative Fees

As a not-for-profit organization, the AAA charges fees to compensate it for the cost of providing administrative services. The fee schedule in effect when the case is filed shall apply for all fees charged during the administration of the case. The AAA may, in the event of the employee's extreme hardship, waive the employee's administrative fees.

AAA fees shall be paid in accordance with the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule, found on our website at www.adr.org.

R-53. Neutral Arbitrator's Compensation

- (a) Arbitrators shall charge a rate consistent with the arbitrator's stated rate of compensation at the time their AAA resume is presented to the parties for consideration pursuant to Rule R-13(b), unless otherwise determined by the AAA. Such compensation will be consistent with the provisions of the arbitrator's executed Notice of Compensation Arrangements.
- (b) Any arrangement for the compensation of a neutral arbitrator shall be made through the AAA and not directly between the parties and the arbitrator.
- (c) Arbitrator compensation shall be paid in accordance with the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule.

R-54. Expenses

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties or as provided under applicable law, the expenses of witnesses for either side shall be borne by the party producing such witnesses.
- (b) All expenses of the arbitrator, including required travel and other expenses, and any AAA expenses, as well as the costs relating to proof and witnesses produced at the direction of the arbitrator, shall be borne in accordance with the Employment/Workplace Fee Schedule.

R-55. Deposits

- (a) The AAA may require deposits in advance of any hearings of such sums of money as it deems necessary to cover the expenses of the arbitration, including the arbitrator's compensation, and shall render an accounting and return any unexpended balance at the conclusion of the case. A party's failure to make the requested deposits by the date established by the AAA may result in the AAA or the arbitrator taking any appropriate steps, as set forth in Rule R-56.
- (b) Deposit amounts requested will be based on estimates provided by the arbitrator. The arbitrator will determine the estimated amount of deposits using the

information provided by the parties with respect to the complexity of each case.

- (c) The AAA shall request from the arbitrator an itemization or explanation for the arbitrator's request for deposits.
- (d) The AAA will establish due dates for the collection of those deposits.

R-56. Remedies for Nonpayment

- (a) If arbitrator compensation or administrative fees have not been paid in full, the AAA may inform the parties so that one of them may forward the required payment.
- (b) Once the AAA informs the parties that payments have not been received, a party may request an order from the arbitrator directing what measures might be taken in light of a party's nonpayment. Such measures may include limiting a party's ability to assert or pursue its claim and prohibiting a non-paying party from filing any motion. However, a party shall never be precluded from defending a claim or counterclaim. The arbitrator must provide the party opposing a request for relief with the opportunity to respond prior to making any determination. In the event that the arbitrator grants any request for relief that limits any party's participation in the arbitration, the arbitrator will require the party who is making a claim and who has made appropriate payments to submit the evidence required to make an award.
- (c) Upon receipt of information from the AAA that full payments have not been received, the arbitrator, on the arbitrator's own initiative, may order the suspension of the arbitration. If no arbitrator has yet been appointed, the AAA may suspend the proceedings.
- (d) If arbitrator compensation or AAA administrative fees remain unpaid after a determination to suspend an arbitration due to nonpayment, the arbitrator has the authority to terminate the proceedings. Such an order shall be in writing and signed by the arbitrator.
- (e) If arbitrator compensation or AAA administrative fees remain unpaid and no arbitrator has yet been appointed, the AAA may terminate the proceedings. Such determination shall be in writing and provided to the parties.
- (f) Where the AAA determines that a business's failure to pay its portion of arbitration costs is a violation of the Employment/Workplace Arbitration Rules, the AAA may decline to administer future employment arbitrations with that business.

R-57. Sanctions

- (a) The arbitrator may, upon a party's request, order appropriate sanctions against a party that has failed to comply with its obligations under these Rules or with an order of the arbitrator. In the event that the arbitrator enters a sanction that limits any party's participation in the arbitration or results in an adverse determination of

an issue or issues, the arbitrator shall explain that order in writing and shall require the submission of evidence and legal argument prior to making of an award. The arbitrator may not enter a default award as a sanction.

- (b) The arbitrator must provide a party that is subject to a sanction request with the opportunity to respond prior to making any determination regarding the sanctions application.

Preliminary Hearing Procedures

P-1. General

- (a) In all but the simplest cases, holding a preliminary hearing as early in the process as possible will help the parties and the arbitrator organize the proceeding in a manner that will maximize efficiency and economy and will provide each party a fair opportunity to present its case.
- (b) Care must be taken to avoid importing procedures from court systems, as such procedures may not be appropriate to the conduct of arbitrations as an alternative form of dispute resolution that is designed to be simpler, less expensive, and more expeditious.

P-2. Checklist

- (a) The following checklist suggests subjects that the parties and the arbitrator should address at the preliminary hearing, in addition to any others that the parties or the arbitrator believe to be appropriate to the particular case. The items to be addressed in a particular case will depend on the size, subject matter, and complexity of the dispute, and are subject to the discretion of the arbitrator:
 - i) the possibility of other non-adjudicative methods of dispute resolution, including mediation;
 - ii) whether all necessary or appropriate parties are included in the arbitration;
 - iii) whether a party will seek a more detailed statement of claims, counterclaims, or defenses;
 - iv) whether there are any anticipated amendments to the parties' claims, counterclaims, or defenses;
 - v) which arbitration rules, procedural law, and substantive law govern the arbitration;
 - vi) issues related to cybersecurity, privacy, and data protection to provide for an appropriate level of security and compliance in connection with the proceeding;
 - vii) whether there are any threshold or dispositive issues that can efficiently be

decided without considering the entire case, including, without limitation:

- a)** any preconditions that must be satisfied before proceeding with the arbitration;
 - b)** whether any claim or counterclaim falls outside the arbitrator's jurisdiction or is otherwise not arbitrable;
 - c)** consolidation of the claims or counterclaims with another arbitration; or
 - d)** bifurcation of the proceeding.
- viii)** whether the parties will exchange documents, including electronically stored documents, on which they intend to rely in the arbitration, and/or make written requests for production of documents within defined parameters;
- ix)** whether to establish any additional procedures to obtain information that is relevant and material to the outcome of disputed issues;
- x)** how costs of any searches for requested information or documents that would result in substantial costs should be borne;
- xi)** whether any measures are required to protect confidential information;
- xii)** whether the parties shall disclose:
 - a)** whether any non-party (such as a third-party funder or an insurer) has undertaken to pay or to contribute to the cost of a party's participation in the arbitration, and if so, to identify the person or entity concerned and to describe the nature of the undertaking; and
 - b)** whether any non-party (such as a funder, insurer, parent company, or ultimate beneficial owner) has an economic interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and if so, to identify the person or entity concerned and to describe the nature of the interest;
- xiii)** whether the parties intend to present evidence from expert witnesses, and if so, whether to establish a schedule for the parties to identify their experts and exchange expert reports;
- xiv)** whether, according to a schedule set by the arbitrator, the parties will:
 - a)** identify all witnesses, the subject matter of their anticipated testimonies, exchange written witness statements, and determine whether written witness statements will replace direct testimony at the hearing;
 - b)** exchange and pre-mark documents that each party intends to submit; and
 - c)** exchange pre-hearing submissions, including exhibits;
- xv)** the date, time, and place of the arbitration hearing;
 - a)** whether, at the arbitration hearing, testimony may be presented in

person, in writing, by videoconference, via the internet, telephonically, or by other reasonable means;

- xvi)** whether there will be a stenographic transcript or other record of the proceeding and, if so, who will make arrangements to provide it;
- xvii)** whether any procedure needs to be established for the issuance of subpoenas;
- xviii)** the identification of any ongoing, related litigation or arbitration;
- xix)** whether post-hearing submissions will be filed;
- xx)** the form of the arbitration award; and
- xxi)** any other matter the arbitrator considers appropriate, or a party wishes to raise.

- b)** The arbitrator shall issue a written order memorializing decisions made, and agreements reached during or following the preliminary hearing.

Administrative Fees for Employment/Workplace Cases

FOR THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE FEE SCHEDULE, PLEASE VISIT www.adr.org.

Employment/Workplace Mediation Procedures

M-1. Agreement of the Parties

Whenever, by stipulation or in their contract, the parties have provided for mediation of existing or future disputes under the auspices of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or under these procedures, the parties and their representatives, unless agreed otherwise in writing, shall be deemed to have made these procedures, as amended and in effect as of the date of filing of a request for mediation, a part of their agreement and designate the AAA as the administrator of their mediation.

The parties, by mutual agreement, may vary any part of these procedures.

M-2. Initiation of Mediation

Any party or parties to a dispute may initiate mediation by making a Request for Mediation online via AAA WebFile at www.adr.org.

The party initiating the mediation shall simultaneously notify the other party or parties of the request. The initiating party shall provide the following information to the AAA and the other party or parties as applicable:

- (a) A copy of the mediation provision of the parties' contract or the parties' stipulation to mediate.
- (b) The names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all parties to the dispute and representatives, if any, in the mediation.
- (c) A brief statement of the nature of the dispute.
- (d) Any specific qualifications the mediator should possess.

Where there is no preexisting stipulation or contract by which the parties have provided for mediation of existing or future disputes, a party may request the AAA to invite another party to agree to participate in the mediation. Upon receipt of such a request, the AAA will contact the other party or parties involved in the dispute and attempt to obtain an agreement to mediate.

M-3. Measures to Expedite Mediation

- (a) The mediator may determine that a pre-mediation conference is unnecessary.
- (b) The mediator has authority to limit the number of pages for the parties' pre-mediation briefs, or to determine that pre-mediation briefs are unnecessary.
- (c) All conferences will take place virtually, via telephone, or via other electronic means, unless the parties agree otherwise.

M-4. Representation

Any party may participate without representation (self-represented), or by any representative of that party's choosing, or by counsel, unless such choice is prohibited by applicable law. A party intending to have representation shall notify the other party and the AAA of the name, telephone number, address, and email address of the representative.

M-5. Selection of the Mediator

Parties may search the online profiles of the AAA's Panel of Mediators provided by the AAA in an effort to agree on a mediator. If the parties have not agreed to the selection of a mediator and have not provided any other method of selection, the mediator shall be selected by the AAA.

M-6. Mediator's Impartiality and Duty to Disclose

AAA mediators are required to abide by the Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators in effect at the time a mediator is appointed to a case. Where there is a conflict between the Model Standards and any provision of these Mediation Procedures, these Mediation Procedures shall govern. The Standards require mediators to (i) decline a mediation if the mediator cannot conduct it in an impartial manner and (ii) disclose, as soon as practicable, all actual and potential conflicts of interest that are reasonably known to the mediator and could reasonably be seen as raising a question about the mediator's impartiality.

Prior to accepting an appointment, AAA mediators are required to make a reasonable inquiry to determine whether there are any facts that a reasonable individual would consider likely to create a potential or actual conflict of interest for the mediator. AAA mediators are required to disclose any circumstance likely to create a presumption of bias or prevent a resolution of the parties' dispute within the time frame desired by the parties. Upon receipt of such disclosures, the AAA shall immediately communicate the disclosures to the parties for their comments.

The parties may, upon receiving disclosure of actual or potential conflicts of interest of the mediator, waive such conflicts and proceed with the mediation. In the event that a party disagrees as to whether the mediator shall serve, or in the event that the mediator's conflict of interest might reasonably be viewed as undermining the integrity of the mediation, the mediator shall be replaced.

M-7. Vacancies

If any mediator shall become unwilling or unable to serve, the AAA will select another mediator, unless the parties agree otherwise, in accordance with M-5.

M-8. Duties and Responsibilities of the Mediator

- (a) The mediator shall conduct the mediation based on the principle of party self-determination. Self-determination is the act of coming to a voluntary, uncoerced decision in which each party makes free and informed choices as to process and outcome.
- (b) The mediator is authorized to conduct separate or ex parte meetings, and other communications with the parties and/or their representatives may be conducted via telephone, in writing, via email, online, in person or otherwise.
- (c) The parties are encouraged to exchange all documents pertinent to the relief

requested. The mediator may request the exchange of memoranda on issues, including the underlying interests and the history of the parties' negotiations. Information that a party wishes to keep confidential may be sent to the mediator, as necessary, in a separate communication with the mediator.

- (d) The mediator does not have the authority to impose a settlement on the parties but will attempt to help them reach a satisfactory resolution of their dispute. Subject to the discretion of the mediator, the mediator may make oral or written recommendations for settlement to a party privately or, if the parties agree, to all parties jointly.
- (e) In the event a complete settlement of all or some issues in dispute is not achieved within the scheduled mediation session(s), the mediator may continue to communicate with the parties, for a period of time, in an ongoing effort to facilitate a complete settlement.
- (f) The mediator is not a legal representative of any party and has no fiduciary duty to any party.
- (g) The mediator shall set the date and time for each session of the mediation. The parties shall respond to requests for mediation dates in a timely manner, be cooperative in scheduling the earliest practicable date, and adhere to the established schedule. The AAA shall provide notice of the mediation to the parties in advance of the date, when timing permits.

M-9. Responsibilities of the Parties

The parties shall ensure that appropriate representatives of each party, having authority to enter into a settlement, attend the mediation. Prior to and during the scheduled mediation session(s) the parties and their representatives shall, as appropriate to each party's circumstances, exercise their best efforts to prepare for and engage in a meaningful and productive mediation.

M-10. Privacy

Mediation sessions and related mediation communications are private proceedings. The parties and their representatives may attend mediation sessions. Other persons may attend only with the permission of the parties and with the consent of the mediator.

M-11. Confidentiality

Subject to applicable law or the parties' agreement, confidential information disclosed to a mediator by the parties or by other participants (witnesses) in the course of the mediation shall not be divulged by the mediator. The mediator shall maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained in the mediation,

and all records, reports, or other documents received by a mediator while serving in that capacity shall be confidential.

The mediator shall not be compelled to divulge such records or to testify in regard to the mediation in any adversary proceeding or judicial forum.

The parties shall maintain the confidentiality of the mediation and shall not rely on, or introduce as evidence in any arbitral, judicial, or other proceeding the following, unless agreed to by the parties or required by applicable law:

- (a) Views expressed or suggestions made by a party or other participant with respect to a possible settlement of the dispute;
- (b) Admissions made by a party or other participant in the course of the mediation proceedings;
- (c) Proposals made or views expressed by the mediator; or
- (d) The fact that a party had or had not indicated willingness to accept a proposal for settlement made by the mediator.

M-12. No Stenographic Record

There shall be no stenographic record of the mediation process.

M-13. Termination of Mediation

The mediation shall be terminated:

- (a) By the execution of a settlement agreement by the parties; or
- (b) By a written or verbal declaration of the mediator to the effect that further efforts at mediation would not contribute to a resolution of the parties' dispute; or
- (c) By a written or verbal declaration of all parties to the effect that the mediation proceedings are terminated; or
- (d) When there has been no communication between the mediator and any party or party's representative for 21 days following the conclusion of the mediation session.

M-14. Exclusion of Liability

Neither the AAA nor any mediator is a necessary party in judicial proceedings relating to the mediation. Neither the AAA nor any mediator shall be liable to any party for any error, act, or omission in connection with any mediation conducted under these procedures. Parties to a mediation under these

procedures may not call the mediator, the AAA, or AAA employees as a witness in litigation or any other proceeding relating to the mediation. The mediator, the AAA, and AAA employees are not competent to and may not testify as witnesses in any such proceeding.

M-15. Interpretation and Application of Procedures

The mediator shall interpret and apply these procedures insofar as they relate to the mediator's duties and responsibilities. All other procedures shall be interpreted and applied by the AAA.

M-16. Deposits

Unless otherwise directed by the mediator, the AAA will require the parties to deposit in advance of the mediation conference such sums of money as it, in consultation with the mediator, deems necessary to cover the costs and expenses of the mediation and shall render an accounting to the parties and return any unexpended balance at the conclusion of the mediation.

M-17. Expenses

All expenses of the mediation, including required traveling and other expenses or charges of the mediator, shall be borne by the company unless they agree otherwise. The expenses of participants for either side shall be paid by the party requesting the attendance of such participants.

M-18. Cost of the Mediation

FOR THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE FEE SCHEDULE, PLEASE VISIT www.adr.org.

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