

# Wayne County Municipal Court – Small Claims

## Online Dispute Resolution

The Wayne County Municipal Court is excited to offer Online Dispute Resolution as a service of the Court. Online Dispute Resolution, with a Mediator, is an easy and flexible way to resolve a dispute. Most importantly, there is NO cost to use the online system. Online Dispute Resolution can help you resolve your dispute in a way that can save time and not require a physical appearance in Court.

If you would like to participate in the Online Dispute Resolution, after filing your complaint, please advise the Court staff and a case will be created for you online. Directions will then be emailed to you about your next step. **\*\*Email addresses are required for both parties.\*\*** Below are some FAQ's.

### How does Online Dispute Resolution Work?

It's easy! If you receive a notice from the Court, simply follow the instructions to go to the site and start your negotiation. You and the other party can have a conversation through the platform, and then document your agreement. If there is no agreement, either party can terminate the negotiation and the case will be scheduled for a Court hearing.

### What does Online Dispute Resolution mean legally?

Online dispute resolution is not a trial. The purpose is to resolve the case before it goes further through the legal system. If the parties reach an agreement they can document the agreement in writing and submit it to the Court (if there is an active case), or use the agreement as a guide that will prevent future disagreements or lawsuits. You and the other party, not a judge or magistrate, get to resolve your dispute in a way that works for both of you.

### Who are Mediators?

Mediators are assigned by the Wayne County Municipal Court and will be involved in the online process.

### Why Online Dispute Resolution?

It's a chance to end a legal dispute in a way that minimizes time spent at Court and saves money. It offers a safe, private, online space to negotiate a satisfactory resolution with the other party. In some cases, this can reduce harm to your credit and help avoid wage garnishments or other collections procedures. Whatever is most important to you, the Online Dispute Resolution process can help you reach your goals.

To view more FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions), please go to [www.courtinnovations.com/OHWCMC](http://www.courtinnovations.com/OHWCMC) and click the FAQ tab.