



## Documents Necessary for Arbitration Hearings

### In-Person & Hybrid Hearings

Attorneys/self-represented litigants are to provide three (3) copies of the following at the time of the hearing:

- a. Operative pleadings, i.e., the most recent complaint or amended complaint, answer to complaint, affirmative defenses, counterclaims, responses to counterclaims and affirmative defenses.
- b. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 90(c) packets.

### Fully Remote/ZOOM Hearings

No later than two (2) business days prior to the ZOOM hearing, attorneys/self-represented litigants are to upload the above referenced materials listed in items a-b to the Dropbox link that will be provided via e-mail by the ADR Center. Zoom links will be e-mailed to all attorneys of record/self-represented litigants approximately 24 hours prior to Zoom arbitration hearings.

**For Arbitration Resources, please visit:**

<https://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/2279/arbitration>

## CONTACT US...



(847) 377-3700



[arbitration@lakecountylil.gov](mailto:arbitration@lakecountylil.gov)



<https://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>  
Click 'Lake County Arbitration Center - Waukegan.'



The ARBITRATION PROGRAM is located at:

Waukegan Business Center  
*Alternative Dispute Resolution*  
*(A.D.R.) Center*

415 W. Washington St., #106  
Waukegan, IL 60085



**LAKE COUNTY  
19<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**COURT-ANNEXED  
MANDATORY  
ARBITRATION**





## **Welcome to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center!**

The **Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration Program** has existed in Lake County since 1989. Since that time the ADR Center has occupied space within the *Waukegan Business Center*, which is a short drive/walk from the main courthouse.

### **Types of Cases Heard in Arbitration**

All civil actions in which each claim is exclusively for monetary damages exceeding \$10,000, but not exceeding \$50,000, exclusive of costs and interest. The program also applies to Small Claims cases with a jury demand. Some types of cases heard are auto accidents, non-payment of credit cards, dog bites, lemon law cases, and contract cases.

### **Why arbitration?**

In Illinois, court-annexed mandatory arbitration was established by the General Assembly as a mandatory, non-binding form of alternative dispute resolution.

According to Supreme Court Rule 88, the period between the date of filing and the date of arbitration hearing provides that all arbitration cases shall have a hearing within one (1) year from the date of filing. The goal of arbitration is to ease court congestion by providing a forum for expedited hearings and to encourage settlement.

Arbitration hearings are conducted **'IN-PERSON'**, **'HYBRID'** (only specific individuals participate remotely), or **'Fully Remote/ZOOM'** (everyone participates remotely) before a panel of three (3) licensed and court approved attorneys/retired judges.



Each party to the case will make their presentation and upon conclusion of the arbitration hearing, arbitrators will deliberate and make an 'Award of Arbitrators.' Awards are filed on the same day as the hearing.

Supreme Court rules allow the right to reject an award to all parties who are displeased with award results if they participated in the hearing process in good faith and a meaningful manner. A rejection will thereby allow the case to proceed to trial.

Any party wanting to reject an award must file the appropriate paperwork and pay appropriate fees to the Circuit Court Clerk within thirty (30) days of the arbitration hearing date. A rejection of the award CANNOT be filed on the post arbitration status date, as that is beyond the thirty (30) day rejection deadline.

If no rejection is filed within the time allowed, any party who was present at the arbitration hearing may move the court to enter judgment on the award at the post-arbitration status.

