



New Interactive Forms Will Simplify Court Access For The Public

Filing or responding to small claims and an initial list of other cases in Oregon circuit courts will now be easier for the public. The Oregon Judicial Department has made interactive interview-based forms (iForms) available through its new online service, OJD iForms.

Filers using OJD iForms will answer questions contained in OJD Guide & File's online interview process, which then generates court forms based on the filer's answers. Once a form is completed, filers can (depending on the form) either eFile the form in courts that currently have eFiling, or print the form and file it themselves at any Oregon circuit court.

"We want to make access to the courts easier, particularly in the kinds of cases where people often are not represented by an attorney," says Chief Justice Tom Balmer. "That's why we're introducing these interview-based forms, to make it less complicated for people to protect their rights in court. Our next step will be expanding use of these forms into dissolution, child custody, and other family law cases."

OJD's user-friendly iForms provide self-represented filers with a simplified process that generates forms filled-in with the information required by the court in order to file or respond to small claims cases, file residential evictions, show that a judgment has been satisfied, or renew a current Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order. Separate interview-based forms to obtain, modify, dismiss, or challenge a FAPA restraining order can also be accessed through OJD iForms.

The first group of iForms will be available on the OJD website starting Monday, September 21, and can be filed in all OJD circuit courts. There is no fee to use OJD iForms – filers will only be required to pay the normal circuit court filing fees when their forms are eFiled or submitted in person to the court.

The Oregon Judicial Department is introducing OJD iForms as part of its Oregon eCourt program. All Oregon circuit courts will be using the Oregon eCourt system by June 2016.

More information is available at <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OnlineServices/iForms/Pages/index.aspx>

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