



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Consumer and Business Services

Workers' Compensation Division

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August 22, 2007

To: Workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, third-party administrators, and attorneys

Subject: Appellate Review Unit, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process

This notice provides information about the Appellate Review Unit's project to streamline resolution of claim closure disputes.

Effective September 17, 2007, the Appellate Review Unit will begin selecting reconsideration requests for participation in this voluntary process. Once selected, the parties to the reconsideration will be given the opportunity to participate in a dispute resolution conference via telephone facilitated by an appellate reviewer. During the conference, the parties will discuss the issues at reconsideration and attempt to resolve them through mutual agreement. If a request for reconsideration has not been selected for alternative dispute resolution, but the parties would like to participate in this process, they may contact us at one of the numbers listed below.

The ADR process does not postpone the reconsideration proceeding, and the Appellate Review Unit will continue to follow statutory time frames.

The Appellate Review Unit welcomes this opportunity to work with all the parties in a renewed effort to facilitate resolution of issues in the reconsideration proceeding. While this process is voluntary, the Workers' Compensation Division encourages the parties to seriously consider participating.

Please address any questions regarding this notice to Debbie Satterfield, lead worker, Appellate Review Unit, (503) 947-7739 (e-mail: [debra.satterfield@state.or.us](mailto:debra.satterfield@state.or.us)) or Jim Van Ness, Appellate Review Unit manager, (503) 947-7753 (e-mail: [jim.vanness@state.or.us](mailto:jim.vanness@state.or.us)).

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John L. Shilts, Administrator  
Workers' Compensation Division