



American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR®) Standards of Conduct for Parties and Representatives

The American Arbitration Association® (AAA®) and its international division, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution® (ICDR®), strive at all times to provide dispute resolution services in accordance with our Shared Mission, Vision and Values. AAA and ICDR employees' conduct is governed by Standards of Ethics and Business Conduct, and the conduct of our arbitrators and mediators is governed by separate codes of ethics as well¹.

The AAA also requires that parties and their representatives ("Participants") conduct themselves in an appropriate manner when utilizing the AAA's services. Participants in AAA cases are required to abide by the following standards of conduct, and failure to do so may result in the AAA's declining to further administer a particular case or caseload. In determining whether to decline to further administer a particular case or caseload as a result of a Participant's failure to follow one or more of these standards, the AAA may consider whether the Participant has been declared to be a vexatious litigant or similar equivalent in any state or federal court.

- Participants in AAA-administered cases shall treat all employees and others involved in the proceedings in a courteous, respectful and civil manner.
- Participants must respect the AAA's policy against any form of unlawful discrimination based on an individual's gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, national origin, or any other legally-protected characteristic.
- Participants shall not engage in harassing, threatening, or intimidating conduct toward AAA employees or arbitrators/mediators.
- Party representatives shall advise their clients and witnesses of the appropriate conduct that is expected of them during the proceedings.
- Participants shall refrain from using vulgar, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language.
- Participants shall direct case-related communications only to their assigned case management staff at the phone, email, or address provided by AAA staff, and shall copy the other parties on such communications as required by the rules governing the case, or as directed by the AAA. Those assigned case-management staff will raise matters with other AAA executives directly and as necessary.
- Participants shall not contact members of the AAA's Board of Directors on case-related matters. The AAA's Board has no involvement in the day-to-day management of the AAA, and AAA Directors do not have any authority or input regarding the administration or outcome of a particular matter.
- Participants shall not threaten violence or other unlawful conduct; AAA will not tolerate any such threats and will forward them to law enforcement authorities.

¹These codes include the *Code of Ethics for Arbitrators in Commercial Disputes*, the *Code of Professional Responsibility for Arbitrators of Labor-Management Disputes*, and the *Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators*.



- Participants shall not repeatedly file unmeritorious demands for arbitration, pleadings, or other papers, or engage in other tactics that the AAA or an arbitrator determines are frivolous, filed for the purpose of harassment, or primarily intended to cause unnecessary delay or increased costs.
- Participants shall not inform the arbitrator of an objection to the arbitrator's service.
- Participants shall not repeatedly file the same objection to an arbitrator if the AAA has already decided those objections.
- Participants shall not withdraw a previously filed matter for the purpose of refileing the same or similar matter due to their discontent with the actions or decisions of the AAA, its case administrator, or the arbitrator/mediator.