

CHAPTER 484

DISTRICT COURTS

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484.01 JURISDICTION.

Subdivision 1. General. The district courts shall have original jurisdiction in all civil actions within their respective districts, in all cases of crime committed or triable therein, in all special proceedings not exclusively cognizable by some other court or tribunal, and in all other cases wherein such jurisdiction is especially conferred upon them by law. They shall also have appellate jurisdiction in every case in which an appeal thereto is allowed by law from any other court, officer, or body.

Subd. 2. Civil service reviews. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the district court has jurisdiction to review a final decision or order of a civil service commission or board upon the petition of an employee or appointing authority in any first-class city. The employee and appointing authority have standing to seek judicial review in all these cases. Review of the decision or order may be had by securing issuance of a writ of certiorari within 60 days after the date of mailing notice of the decision to the party applying for the writ. To the extent possible, the provisions of rules 110, 111, and 115 of the Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure govern the procedures to be followed. Each reference in those rules to the court of appeals, the trial court, the trial court administrator, and the notice of appeal must be read, where appropriate, as a reference to the district court, the body whose decision is to be reviewed, to the administrator, clerk, or secretary of that body, and to the writ of certiorari, respectively. This subdivision does not alter or amend the application of sections 197.455 and 197.46, relating to veterans preference.

History: 1993 c 152 s 1

484.013 HOUSING CALENDAR CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. A program is established in the second and fourth judicial districts to consolidate the hearing and determination of matters related to residential rental housing and to ensure continuity and consistency in the disposition of cases.

Subd. 2. Jurisdiction. The housing calendar program may consolidate the hearing and determination of all proceedings under chapters 504 and 566; criminal and civil proceedings related to violations of any state, county or city health, safety, housing, building, fire prevention or housing maintenance code; escrow of rent proceedings; landlord-tenant damage actions; and actions for rent and rent abatement. A proceeding under sections 566.01 to 566.17 may not be delayed because of the consolidation of matters under the housing calendar program.

Subd. 3. Referee. The chief judge of district court may appoint a referee for the housing calendar program. The referee must be learned in the law. The referee must be compensated according to the same scale used for other referees in the district court. Section 484.70, subdivision 6, applies to the housing calendar program.

Subd. 4. Referee duties. The duties and powers of the referee in the housing calendar program are as follows:

(1) to hear and report all matters within the jurisdiction of the housing calendar program and as may be directed to the referee by the chief judge; and

(2) to recommend findings of fact, conclusions of law, temporary and interim orders, and final orders for judgment.

All recommended orders and findings of the referee are subject to confirmation by a judge.

Subd. 5. Transmittal of court file. Upon the conclusion of the hearing in each case, the referee shall transmit to the district court judge, the court file together with the referee's recommended findings and orders in writing. The recommended findings and orders of the referee become the findings and orders of the court when confirmed by the district court judge. The order of the court is proof of the confirmation.

Subd. 6. Confirmation of referee orders. Review of a recommended order or finding of the referee by a district court judge may be had by notice served and filed within ten days of effective notice of the recommended order or finding. The notice of review must specify the grounds for the review and the specific provisions of the recommended findings or orders disputed, and the district court judge, upon receipt of the notice of review, shall set a time and place for the review hearing.

Subd. 7. Procedures. The chief judge of the district must establish procedures for the implementation of the program, including designation of a location for the hearings. The chief judge may also appoint other staff as necessary for the program.

Subd. 8. Evaluation. The state court administrator may establish a procedure in consultation with the chief judge of each district, each district administrator, and an advisory group for evaluating the efficiency and the effectiveness of consolidating the hearing of residential rental housing matters. An advisory group, appointed by the state court administrator, may be established to provide ongoing oversight and evaluation of the housing calendar consolidation program. The advisory group must include representatives of the second and fourth judicial districts and must be composed of at least one representative from each of the following groups: the state court administrator's office; the district court administrator's office; the district judges; owners of rental property; and tenants.

History: 1993 c 265 s 6; 1993 c 317 s 16

484.74 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Subdivision 1. Authorization. In litigation involving an amount in excess of \$7,500 in controversy, the presiding judge may, by order, direct the parties to enter nonbinding alternative dispute resolution. Alternatives may include private trials, neutral expert fact-finding, mediation, minitrials, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. The guidelines for the various alternatives must be established by the presiding judge and must emphasize early and inexpensive exchange of information and case evaluation in order to facilitate settlement.

[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 192 s 96; 1993 c 340 s 18

484.76 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. General. The supreme court shall establish a statewide alternative dispute resolution program for the resolution of civil cases filed with the courts. The supreme court shall adopt rules governing practice, procedure, and jurisdiction for alternative dispute resolution programs established under this section. Except for matters involving family law the rules shall require the use of nonbinding alternative dispute resolution processes in all civil cases, except for good cause shown by the presiding judge, and must provide an equitable means for the payment of fees and expenses for the use of alternative dispute resolution processes.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 192 s 97; 1993 c 340 s 19