



RULES GOVERNING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ARBITRATION OF NO-FAULT DISPUTES IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

1. Establishment and Purpose. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:6A-5.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 11:3-5.4, there shall be a New Jersey No-Fault Advisory Council consisting of users of the dispute resolution system to assist the National Arbitration Forum (FORUM) in connection with selection of dispute resolution professionals and the periodic review of rules and processes.
2. Appointment and Membership. The Advisory Council shall consist of three ex-officio members and fourteen user members.
 - i. Seven user members shall be representatives of claimants and an equal number shall be representatives of respondents.
 - ii. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance or his or her designee shall be an ex-officio member of the Council.
 - iii. The Executive Director of the FORUM NJ No-Fault Program, or his or her designee, shall be an ex-officio member of the Council and shall serve as the Presiding Officer at all Council Meetings.
 - iv. The Director of Arbitration of the FORUM, or her or his designee, shall be an ex-officio member of the Council.
3. Selection of User Members. The FORUM shall, in its sole discretion, select individuals to serve or to continue to serve as user members. Criteria for user member selection include, but are not limited to, knowledge of the No-Fault dispute resolution process, ability to offer recommendations for improvement, demonstrated commitment to preserve and enhance the neutrality of the dispute resolution process, availability for regular attendance at Advisory Council meetings and willingness to devote the necessary time to Advisory Council business.
4. Membership Term and Vacancies. Four respondent user members shall serve three (3) year terms and three respondent user members shall serve two (2) year terms, as designated by the FORUM in its sole discretion. Four claimant user members shall serve three (3) year terms and three claimant user members shall serve two (2) year terms, as designated by the FORUM in its sole discretion. In the event any member is unable or unwilling to serve for his or her entire term, the Forum shall select a replacement to serve the unexpired term.

5. Duties. The Advisory Council shall have the following duties:
 - i. To preserve and protect the integrity of the dispute resolution process and the neutrality of the dispute resolution professionals,
 - ii. To advise the FORUM on development or revision of rules governing the dispute resolution process,
 - iii. To identify and review potential DRP candidates and to make recommendations to the FORUM regarding qualifications of candidates to serve as dispute resolution professionals,
 - iv. To consider input for program improvements from individuals within the user community,
 - v. To generally advise the FORUM as to other matters of importance to the dispute resolution process.
6. Confidentiality. Council members shall maintain in strictest confidence, and shall not disclose to any person, any written or oral reports, comments, deliberations or communications whatsoever relating to dispute resolution professional candidates or current or former dispute resolution professionals.
7. Avoidance of Improper Influence. Council Members shall not use their position on the Council to influence the decisions of any dispute resolution professional and shall refrain from creating the impression of control or influence over the continued participation of any individual as a dispute resolution professional.
8. User Community Liaison. Advisory Council members shall serve as liaisons to the user community and may disseminate program information to the extent that such information is not deemed confidential. Members shall provide the FORUM with their business addresses and telephone numbers and authorize the FORUM to publish the information for use by the No-Fault community.
9. Meetings. The Council shall meet at least four times per year, and more often as the Commissioner or the Forum may deem necessary and prudent to reasonably fulfill the Council's duties hereunder. The Council may request that additional meetings be held and the FORUM may schedule additional Council meetings as the need arises. The Executive Director or his representative will establish the Council meeting agenda, arrange for the meeting space and provide administrative support for the Council meetings.
10. Amendments. The FORUM may amend these rules at any time subject to approval by the Commissioner.