

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW INTERACTIVE FORM HELPS TENANTS WITH CLAIMS FOR RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT

A new interactive online tool is now available, free of charge, to help self-represented litigants file claims for the return of their security deposit in the Justice of the Peace Court. Graphics guide the litigant through an online interview process in which the filer is asked questions relating to his or her claim. Using the answers to these questions, the program automatically fills in the complaint, including the statement of facts. Upon completion, a document ready to be filed in court can be printed out by the litigant. This new resource for self-represented litigants can be found [here](#). This interactive form is also available on the web sites of the Justice of the Peace Court (www.courts.delaware.gov/jpcourt) and the Legal Services Corporation of Delaware (www.lscd.com).

“We hear from a lot of people who need help in getting their security deposits back, so this will be a very valuable resource for them, especially in this difficult time, where there have been significant cuts in funding for legal services” says Douglas Canfield, who heads Legal Services Corporation of Delaware.

Developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Justice of the Peace Court, in partnership with Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, and with the programming support of Ohio DR Software, LLC, the return of security deposit form is the first in a planned series of online interactive forms.

“The majority of civil cases in the Justice of the Peace Court are filed by self-represented litigants so we plan to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop a variety of additional forms to help litigants,” says Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court, Alan Davis. He adds that “the forms also help the judges and court staff by making filings easier to read and clearer than is sometimes the case.” Next on the list is a form to guide landlords or tenants through the filing of a summary possession action. The summary possession interactive form, which is currently in development, will be available for actions involving either residential or commercial units.

Both the existing and planned forms rely on a nationally recognized tool, A2J Author, which is supported by grants from the Chicago-Kent College of Law, State Justice Institute, Center for Access to the Courts through Technology, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), and Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

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