

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2011

**NEW INTERACTIVE FORM TO HELP TENANTS AND LANDLORDS WITH CLAIMS
FOR SUMMARY POSSESSION**

A new interactive online tool is now available, free of charge, to help self-represented litigants file claims for summary possession 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 form, including the statement of facts. Upon completion, a document ready to be filed in court can be printed out by the litigant for submission to the Court. 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 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 summary possession initial filing is the second in a planned series of online interactive forms. The first was the Return of Security Deposit which was launched in August 2010.

“The majority of civil cases in the Justice of the Peace Court are filed by self-represented litigants so we are pleased to be able to make a variety of forms available interactively through this joint initiative with the Administrative Office of the Courts,” 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 of forms available to the public is an online interview which will guide the user through completing a form to file a debt action. Then interviews to complete forms for trespass and replevin actions will also be added.

Both the existing and planned interviews 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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