

ARBITRATORS ARE CHOSEN AT RANDOM FROM THE CATEGORICAL LISTS PREPARED BY THE DIRECTOR UNDER § 3-2A-03(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, AND MAY NOT BE CONFINED TO TIME LIMITATIONS IN SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION.

[(e)] (F) (1) The parties may, within the time for returning their lists to the Director, agree in writing upon a single arbitrator. In that event, they shall advise the Director in writing of their choice, and the one arbitrator shall constitute the arbitration panel.

(2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL PREPARE A SEPARATE LIST OF QUALIFIED ATTORNEYS WILLING TO SERVE AS SINGLE ARBITRATORS.

[(f)] (G) In the absence of an affirmative showing of malice or bad faith, each arbitrator from the time of acceptance of appointment has immunity from suit for any act or decision made during tenure and within the scope of designated authority.

~~(H) -- THE PARTIES MAY AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO 30 DAYS BEFORE A SCHEDULED HEARING STIPULATE TO WAIVE RECOURSE TO THE ARBITRATION PROCESS. ANY SUCH CASE SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DOCKET OF THE CIRCUIT COURT WITH VENUE. THE PARTIES SHALL BE REQUIRED TO FILE AN ELECTION OF JURY TRIAL WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE STIPULATION. ANY PLEADINGS FILED IN THE ARBITRATION OFFICE NEED NOT BE REFILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT.~~

3-2A-05.

(a) (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection, all issues of law shall be referred by the Director to the panel chairman. All issues of fact shall be referred by the Director to the arbitration panel.

(2) Where a panel chairman has not been appointed OR IS TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO SERVE, and the Director is admitted to the Maryland Bar, the Director may rule on all issues of law arising prior to hearing that are not dispositive of the case AND SHALL INCLUDE THE ASSESSMENT OF COSTS.

(b) (1) The provisions of §§ 3-212 through 3-217 and 3-220 of this article are applicable to proceedings under this subtitle.

(2) Except for the provisions of THE Maryland [Rule 400(a)] RULES relating to time for the completion of discovery, the provisions of [Chapter 400 of] the Maryland Rules [(Depositions and Discovery)] RELATING TO DISCOVERY are applicable to proceedings under this subtitle. All discovery in any action under this subtitle shall be completed within 270 days from the date on which all defendants have been served, UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE PANEL CHAIRMAN FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.