

Rule 9019-3 Assignment of Disputes to Mediation or Voluntary Arbitration.

- (a) Stipulation of Parties. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Court may refer a dispute pending before it to mediation and, upon consent of the parties, to arbitration. During a mediation, the parties may stipulate to allow the mediator, if qualified as an arbitrator, to hear and arbitrate the dispute.

- (b) Safeguards in Consent to Voluntary Arbitration. Matters may proceed to voluntary arbitration by consent where
 - (i) Consent to arbitration is freely and knowingly obtained; and

 - (ii) No party is prejudiced for refusing to participate in arbitration.