

DECIDING IF YOU WANT TO APPEAL

If you believe there was a legal mistake in your case, you can ask the Court of Appeals to review the case to make sure it was done right. Here are some things to consider when deciding if you want to appeal.



AN APPEAL IS NOT A DO-OVER OF YOUR CASE

The Court of Appeals only looks at whether the superior court made a mistake. It will not have a new trial, and you cannot bring in new evidence or witnesses.



ONLY LEGAL MISTAKES ARE REVIEWED

The Court of Appeals will consider the things that you point out as mistakes. **It will not re-examine your entire case looking for mistakes or change the result just because you think it was wrong or unfair.**



YOU MUST ARGUE YOUR CASE IN WRITING

You tell the Court of Appeals in a written document (called a brief) what you think the superior court did wrong. Your brief should include laws, cases, or rules that support your argument.



YOU CANNOT TESTIFY

The Court of Appeals mainly decides appeals based on the parties' written arguments, and you probably will not talk to a judge. If the court allows an in-person argument, you can only discuss what is in your brief, not give testimony.



APPEALS ARE PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

All case documents are public unless they are sealed or restricted. Court of Appeals decisions are available online and can usually be found by searching the internet for a party's name. News media sometimes covers appellate cases.



APPEALS CAN BE EXPENSIVE

You must pay a \$330 filing fee to the Court of Appeals, and you may have to pay for transcripts, e-filing, or the other party's attorneys' fees and costs for the appeal.



APPEALS CAN TAKE A LONG TIME

Appeals can move slowly, and many cases take more than a year.