

Appeals Quick Guide

Felony Appeals

Typical Duration

1 - 3 Years

Typical Costs

Transcripts: Varies
Filing Fee: \$253

Quick Facts

Step by Step

Step 1 – Give Notice

What: [Notice of Appeal - JDF 1931](#).

Due: Within **49 days** of a final order.

Why: Gives notice that an appeal has started.

Step 2 – Designate the Transcripts

What: [Designation of Transcripts - JDF 1932](#).

Due: Within **7 days** of the Notice of Appeal.

Why: Lists the transcripts to be included in the Record on Appeal.

Step 3 – Record on Appeal

What: The case file and any designated transcripts.

Due: Sent by the District Court within **63 days** of the Notice.

Step 4 – Written Arguments

What: [Opening Brief - JDF 1935](#).

Due: Within **6 weeks** after the record is filed.

Why: The Defendant's arguments on appeal.

Step 5 – Optional Last Word

What: [Reply Brief - JDF 1936](#).

Due: Within **3 weeks** of an Answer Brief (only if one is filed).

Why: The Defendant's response to the Attorney General's arguments.

Step 6 - **Decision**

What: The Opinion.

When: Usually 4 - 7 months after the last brief is filed.

Who: Issued by a panel of three Judges.

1. Where Filed: The Notice & Designation are filed in **both** the Court of Appeals and in the District Court.

2. Service: Send a copy of everything you file to the Colorado Attorney General.

3. Final Order: Examples of a final order include sentencing after a conviction, an order for restitution, or an order denying postconviction relief.

4. Not a New Trial: You will not be allowed to present new evidence or call witnesses on appeal.

5. Review of an Order: The appeal is a review of a final decision. It is not a review of the conduct of attorneys or the truthfulness of the witnesses.

6. Issues on Appeal: The alleged mistakes the District Court made in deciding the case.

7. What the Court Will Do: The Court will look at the issues and decide if the District Court made errors of law or other findings.