



Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Process for Filing an Appeal of a Judge's Decision

The process to appeal a court order depends on whether the order was issued by an Associate Judge or a Magistrate Judge.

How to File an Appeal of a Magistrate Judge's Order

A **Magistrate Judge** handles certain cases, motions, and hearings, including those where all parties consent to their authority. If you disagree with a Magistrate Judge's decision, you cannot immediately appeal to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Instead, you must file a **Motion for Judicial Review** according to the **deadlines below**. The motion should clearly state which order or judgment you are appealing, point out the specific parts of the decision, and explain why you are appealing. You cannot submit new evidence with this motion.

The motion will be reviewed by an Associate Judge, who may either agree with, modify, or overturn the Magistrate Judge's decision.

After the Associate Judge completes the judicial review, you may **appeal** the Associate Judge's decision to the **District of Columbia Court of Appeals** for further review, except for a decision in a small claims case.

Motion for Judicial Review Filing Deadlines

(count from the date the judgment/order was entered):

- Family Court cases (excluding Parentage & Support): 10 calendar days
- Parentage & Support cases: 30 calendar days
- All other cases: 14 calendar days

How to File an Appeal of an Associate Judge's Order

You have the right to appeal a final order or decision that closes your case, and certain non-final orders, issued by the Associate Judge in the Superior Court of the District of the District of Columbia.

To appeal, file a **Notice of Appeal** with the Superior Court Clerk's Office where your case is filed **within 30 days** of the date the judgment/order was entered. For more information on the filing process, please visit:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/court-of-appeals/how-to-appeal>



Small Claims (final decisions only): To appeal a decision of an Associate Judge in a Small Claims case, file an Application for Allowance of Appeal directly with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals within 3 days of the decision. The form is available both at the clerk's office and on the DC Courts website at:

<https://www.dccourts.gov/services/forms>



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Need assistance with the filing process or next steps?

Please contact the office or self-help center in the division where your case was filed, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Civil Actions Branch

Location: 500 Indiana Ave NW, Room 5000

Contact: (202) 879-1133

Landlord and Tenant Branch

Location: 510 4th St NW, Room 110

Contact: (202) 879-4879

Small Claims Branch

Location: 510 4th St NW, Room 120

Contact: (202) 879-1120

Criminal Division

Location: 500 Indiana Ave NW, Room 4000

Contact: (202) 879-1373

Domestic Violence Division

Location: 500 Indiana Ave NW, Room 4510

Contact: (202) 879-0157

Family Court Self-Help Center

Location: 500 Indiana Ave NW, Room JM 570

Contact: (202) 879-0096

Probate Self-Help Center

Location: 515 5th St NW, Room 318

Contact: (202) 508-1681