

Getting Started

Appellant's Brief

IMPORTANT: This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to use the *Appellant's Brief* form. Your use of the form does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the form and file it with the court, read the *HOW TO FILE AN APPELLANT'S BRIEF* instruction sheet and the instructions on the form.

Name of form:	<i>Appellant's Brief</i>
Purpose of the form:	To tell the appellate court why the trial court should not have entered an order or judgment against you.
Types of cases the form CAN be used for:	All appeals to the Illinois Appellate Court.
Types of cases the form CANNOT be used for:	All appeals to any other court.
Cost to File the form:	None, if you file in person; if you file by U.S. mail or third-party commercial carrier (e.g., FedEx or UPS), you will need to pay postage or delivery fees.
Special information or papers needed to complete the form:	You will need to refer to the record on appeal, including the common law record (the documents filed in the trial court) and the report of proceedings (the transcript of the trial court hearings). You will also need to cite legal authority (cases, statutes (laws), etc.) to support your arguments.
Statutes and rules covering the form:	Illinois Supreme Court Rules 321 , 323 , 341 , and 342
Where to find the form and instruction sheet:	http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/
For more information:	Read the <i>HOW TO FILE AN APPELLANT'S BRIEF</i> instruction sheet that comes with this form. You may also find more information and resources at: http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/CivilJustice/Resources/Guide_for_Appeals_to_the_IL_Appellate_Court_rev_0930.pdf