

Information for Representing Yourself in an Appeal

If you are representing yourself in a [civil appeal](#) from the [Superior Court](#) to the [Supreme Court](#), there are many important things to think about. You must understand that the appeals process is complicated. Understanding [statutes](#) and court rules and doing legal research can be difficult. Attorneys are trained for just this purpose. They know how to follow the [Appellate Rules](#), decide which issues to raise, write [briefs](#) and how to argue the case. You should attempt to present your case [through an attorney](#) if possible. The [Alaska Bar Association's](#) Lawyer Referral Service can give you contact information for 3 attorneys who do appeals cases who charge \$50 or less for the first ½ hour of their time: (907) 272-0352 (Anchorage) or (800) 770-9999 (Outside Anchorage). Please note that this service includes only those attorneys who have requested to participate - it does not include all members of the Alaska Bar Association. You can also consult telephone yellow pages, or ask people you know to recommend a good attorney. Court staff cannot provide attorney recommendations.

However, if you are going to represent yourself in an appeal, you can do well if your arguments are strong, you learn about the process, are organized and present your arguments clearly and concisely. It is important to:

- Educate yourself about all parts of the appeal. The Appellate Rules describe all of the requirements, including the required paperwork to start the appeal, the required information and formatting for appeal briefs and excerpts of record, information about oral arguments and filing motions and oppositions. The [Self-Help Appeals website](#) is designed to provide information about representing yourself in a civil appeal from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court. Read every section of that website.
- Pay attention to all of the deadlines in your case. Missing a deadline can result in your appeal being dismissed or the court not considering your arguments.
- Organize yourself so you have all of the information to bring the appeal or respond to the appeal.
- Provide [citations](#) to the [record](#), [excerpt of record](#) or [transcript](#) for every factual assertion you make in your [brief](#).
- Send the opposing party a copy of every document you file at the Supreme Court. This includes the papers to start the appeal, all briefs and excerpts of record, the transcript if there is one, and any motions and affidavits. You must fill out a [certificate of service](#) for all filings showing what you gave the opposing party, when and whether you used the mail or hand-delivery.
- Consider finding an attorney who will provide [unbundled legal services](#). This is also called discrete task representation. Basically instead of hiring an attorney for full representation, the client would hire the attorney to perform a specific service that they both agree upon. This may include providing legal advice, deciding points on appeal, drafting documents, doing legal research, or helping to prepare for oral argument.