

United States Court of Appeals
For the Seventh Circuit



Brief Information Sheet for Pro Se Litigants

The first brief filed is the *Appellant's Brief*:

- This brief should explain how the district court made an error in handling your case.
 - √ It should include a statement of the case, including any facts relevant to the issues on appeal, your arguments, a conclusion, and a statement that you served the appellees. If possible, the brief should also include citations to cases, statutes, and other laws that support your argument.
- If typed, this brief must be no more than 14,000 words or 30 pages. If handwritten, it should be no more than 50 pages.
- A copy of the district court's final order and judgment that is being appealed should be attached to the end of the brief as the appendix.
 - √ The appendix can contain other documents that you find important, but the appendix should not be longer than 50 pages.
 - √ This court has electronic access to all documents on the district court's docket.

The second brief filed in an appeal is the *Appellee's Brief*:

- This brief will be the opposing party's chance to respond to the arguments made by you.

The third brief filed (but not required) is the *Appellant's Reply Brief*:

- This brief gives you the chance to address the arguments raised in the brief or briefs filed by the Appellees.
 - √ It should not raise new arguments.
 - √ You should file a single reply brief even if there are multiple response briefs.
- If typed, this brief must be no more than 7,000 words or 15 pages. If handwritten, it should be no more than 25 pages.

Only one copy of a brief is required. The court expects briefs to have a professional tone and to avoid personal attacks on other parties or their attorneys.

Specific requirements for briefs and appendices are contained in Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure 28, 30, 31, and 32, and Seventh Circuit Rules 12(b), 26.1, 28, 30, 31, and 32. These rules are available on the court's website (www.ca7.uscourts.gov) or in the court's public libraries, which are listed below:

William J. Campbell Library

219 South Dearborn St., 16th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S Courts Library

46 East Ohio St., Room 445
Indianapolis, IN 46204

U.S. Courts Library

517 East Wisconsin Ave., Rm. 516
Milwaukee, WI 53202

U.S. Courts Library

204 South Amin St., Rm.316
South Bend, IN 46601

U.S. Courts Library

750 Missouri Ave
East St. Louis, IL 62202