

SAC Rules of Appellate Procedure

Recommended Changes to Mass. R. App. P. 20(a)(1), (2)(D), (3)(F) and (4)(C)

Redlined Version

Rule 20. Form and Length of Briefs, Appendices, and Other Documents

(a) Form and Length of Briefs, Appendices, and Applications for and Responses to Direct and Further Appellate Review.

(1) Form.

(A) Except on order of the appellate court or a single justice, or if filed on behalf of a party allowed to proceed as an indigent party, all briefs, appendices, and applications for and responses to direct and further appellate review shall be produced by any duplicating or copying process which produces a clear black image on white paper. However produced, the page shall be 8.5 inches in width and 11 inches in height. Pages shall be firmly bound at the left, and a cover or front page shall be used.

(B) Visual aids, including images, photographs, illustrations, diagrams, charts, or tables, may be included in a brief, an application for direct or further appellate review, or a response to such an application. A visual aid shall:

(i) be supported by appropriate citation.

(ii) not include any material that is impounded, depicts a minor, violence, death, or pornography, or is otherwise gruesome or indecent in nature.

(iii) comply with the requirements of Rule 18(a)(1)(F) concerning quality, legibility, accuracy, and color.

(2) Length of Briefs in All Cases Other than Cross Appeals. The following rules shall govern the length of briefs in all cases other than cross appeals:

...

(D) In all briefs, only those parts required by Rule 16(a)(5)-(11), including headings, footnotes, visual aids, and quotations, count towards the length limits.

...

(3) Length of Briefs in Cases Involving Cross Appeals. The following rules shall govern the length of briefs in cases involving cross appeals:

...

(F) In all briefs, only those parts required by Rule 16(a)(5)-(11), including headings, footnotes, visual aids, and quotations, count towards the length limits.

...

(4) Format and Pagination of Text. The following rules shall govern the format of text on the pages of all briefs and applications for and responses to direct or further appellate review:

...

(C) Text shall be double-spaced, except that argument headings, footnotes, visual aids, and indented quotations may be single-spaced. For purposes of this rule, single spacing means not more than 6 lines of text per vertical inch; double spacing means not more than 3 lines of text per vertical inch and not more than 27 double-spaced lines on a page.

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