



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## THE APPEALS COURT

### SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT: *WHERE DO I BEGIN?*

The Massachusetts Appeals Court recognizes the effort required to work through the appellate process. Below are resources to help get started as a self-represented litigant:

**Help Center:** [Appeals Court Help Center | Mass.gov](#)

An online collection of guides and resources with information about the appeals process.



**Starting an Appeal:** [Requirements for starting an appeal in each Trial Court department | Mass.gov](#)

**FAQ:** [Appeals Court Frequent Appellate Process Questions | Mass.gov](#)



**Single Justice Filings:** [Single Justice Practice | Mass.gov](#)

**Access to Lawyers:** Free legal service for low income and qualified cases via

- ✓ The Volunteer Lawyers Project's [Civil Appeals Clinic](#)
- ✓ [Massachusetts Legal Resource Finder](#)

Please be aware that there are deadlines for filing an appeal, which vary depending on the type of case. You can learn more about these deadlines and find more information about appeals at the resources linked above.

#### Helpful Forms

- ✓ **Appeals Court Forms:** [Appeals Court Forms | Mass.gov](#)
- ✓ Please visit <https://courtformsonline.org> for assistance in preparing certain filings in the Appeals Court. The resources are made available by the Suffolk University Law School Legal Innovation and Technology Lab and approved by the Appeals Court.

#### Electronic Filing:

- ✓ [Electronic Filing at the Appeals Court | Mass.gov](#)
- ✓ [Appeals Court Informal Brief Pilot Program | Mass.gov](#)
- ✓ <https://efileus.com/eFileMA/>

#### Legal Research

- ✓ The [Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries](#) has online materials to guide you through the legal process.
- ✓ Check out [MassLegalHelp](#) for information about your legal rights in Massachusetts.
- ✓ Look at [MassLegalServices](#) for materials about laws affecting low income MA residents.
- ✓ Check the Supreme Judicial Court [Reporter of Decisions office](#) page for past decisions.



**Self Representation:** [Self-Representation in the Appeals Court | Mass.gov](#)

\*\* Please note that cases from the Division of Unemployment, from State Agencies, and in civil matters of the District Court or Boston Municipal Court have different avenues for appeals. See the [Self-Help page on Civil Appeals](#) for more information.