

**Rule 6.1501 Appellate Procedure Timelines**  
**Rule 6.1501—Timeline No. 2: Briefing Procedure.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE TIMELINE NO. 2**

(not for use in Iowa Code chapter 232 child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights appeals)

**BRIEFING PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>**

Deadlines



50 days



30 days



21 days



14 days



14 days



1. *Briefing deadline.* Briefing deadlines run from the date the clerk of the supreme court gives notice of the briefing deadline. <sup>2</sup> Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.803(6), 6.901(1).
2. *Appellant's brief.* Within 50 days after the clerk of the supreme court gives notice of the briefing deadlines, the appellant must file the appellant's brief with the clerk of the supreme court. Iowa R. App. P. 6.901(1)(a).
3. *Appellee's brief.* Within 30 days after service of the appellant's brief, the appellee must file the appellee's brief or a statement waiving the brief with the clerk of the supreme court. Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.901(1)(b), 6.903(3).
4. *Appellant's reply brief.* If a cross-appeal has not been filed, the appellant may file a reply brief within 21 days of service of the appellee's brief. Iowa R. App. P. 6.901(1)(c). If a cross-appeal has been filed, the appellant/cross-appellee must respond within 21 days of service of the appellee/cross-appellant's brief by either filing a reply brief or a statement waiving any further brief. Iowa R. App. P. 6.901(1)(c).
5. *Appellee/cross-appellant's reply brief.* If a cross-appeal was filed, the appellee/cross-appellant may file a reply brief within 14 days of service of the appellant/cross-appellee's reply brief. Iowa R. App. P. 6.901(1)(c).
6. *Transmission of the record.* No later than 14 days after all briefs have been filed or the time for filing them has expired, the appellant must request transmission of the record from the clerk of the district court and file an informational copy of the request with the clerk of the supreme court. Iowa R. App. P. 6.802(2)(b).

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<sup>1</sup>The Iowa Rules of Appellate Procedure govern the procedure in all appeals in Iowa and should be reviewed in full. This timeline is merely illustrative of typical appeals and may not cover every procedural situation or type of appeal.

<sup>2</sup>The deadlines in this timeline only relate to nonexpedited cases. See Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.901(1), 6.902. The times for filing are reduced for expedited cases under Iowa Rule of Appellate Procedure 6.902.

Expedited cases include: child custody, adoption, termination of parental rights under Iowa Code chapter 600A, child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights under Iowa Code chapter 232 when full briefing has been granted, criminal proceedings in which an appeal is taken from a judgment and sentence entered upon a guilty plea or from a sentence or resentencing order only, juvenile proceedings affecting child placement, lawyer disciplinary matters, involuntary commitments of mentally ill persons under Iowa Code chapter 229, involuntary commitments of persons with a substance use disorder under Iowa Code chapter 125, and certified questions under Iowa Code chapter 684A. Iowa R. App. P. 6.902(1).

In expedited cases the times for filing are reduced by one-half except step 4 which is reduced to 15 days. Iowa R. App. P. 6.902(2).