

**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

**In the Matter of Adopting  
Amendments to Chapter 6 of the  
Iowa Court Rules, Iowa Rules of  
Appellate Procedure**

**Order**

The Iowa Supreme Court adopts revised appellate procedure timelines and charts to chapter 6 of the Iowa Rules of Appellate Procedure. The timelines and charts have been updated in correlation with recent amendments to the Iowa Rules of Appellate Procedure set to go into effect on April 1, 2024.

The current timelines in rule 6.1501 and charts in rule 6.1601 will expire and the new timelines and charts provided with this order will become effective on April 1, 2024.

Dated this 29th day of February, 2024.

**The Iowa Supreme Court**

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

**DIVISION XV**  
**APPELLATE PROCEDURE TIMELINES**

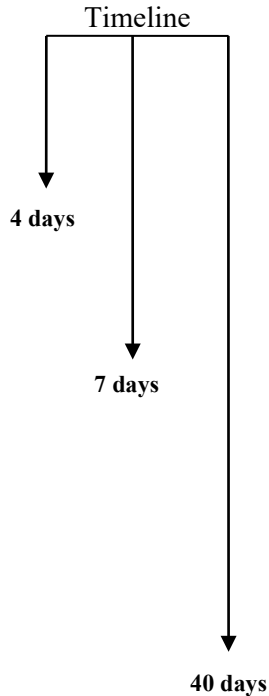
**Rule 6.1501 Appellate Procedure Timelines**

**Rule 6.1501—Timeline No. 1: Prebriefing Procedure.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE TIMELINE NO. 1**

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

**PREBRIEFING PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>**



1. *Notice of appeal.* The appellant files the notice of appeal with the clerk of the district court and an informational copy with the clerk of the supreme court and must serve a copy on all parties. Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.101, 6.102(2).

2. *Transmission of certified notice of appeal.* Within 4 days after the filing of the notice of appeal, the clerk of the district court transmits a certified copy of the notice of appeal to the clerk of the supreme court and all parties. Iowa R. App. P. 6.802.

3. *Payment of filing fee, ordering transcript(s), and filing combined certificate.* Within 7 days after the filing of the notice of appeal, the appellant pays the filing fee to the clerk of the supreme court or requests a waiver of the fee, Iowa R. App. P. 6.703, and orders the transcript(s) from the court reporter(s) by completing the combined certificate and serving the certificate on the court reporter(s), Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.803(1), 6.804.<sup>2</sup> The appellant files the combined certificate with the clerk of the district court and the clerk of the supreme court. Iowa R. App. P. 6.804(1).

4. *Filing of transcript(s).* Within 40 days from service of the combined certificate, the court reporter files the transcript(s) with the clerk of the district court and files the reporter's certificate of filing the transcript(s) with the clerk of the supreme court.<sup>3</sup> Iowa R. App. P. 6.803(3)(b)(3).

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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>See Iowa Rule of Appellate Procedure 6.805 if the appellee wishes to designate additional parts of the transcript(s) or if a dispute arises about which parts of the proceedings are to be transcribed.

<sup>3</sup>The time for filing is reduced to 20 days in guilty plea and sentencing appeals. Iowa R. App. P. 6.803(3)(b)(1).

**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



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).

50 days



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).

30 days



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).

21 days



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).

14 days



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).

14 days



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).

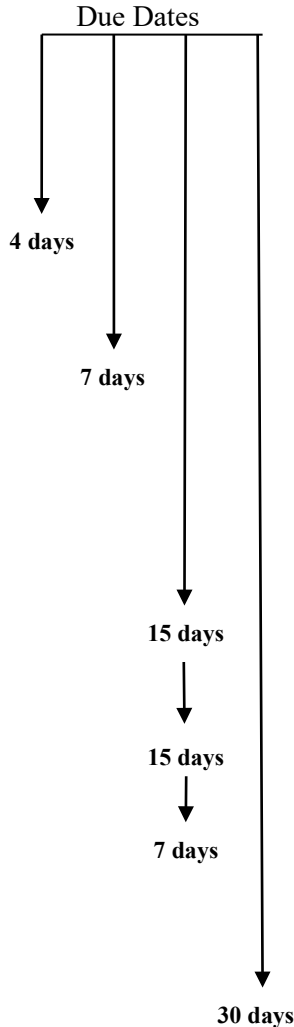
In expedited cases the times for filing are reduced by one-half except step 4 which is reduced to 15 days. Iowa R. App. P. 6.902(2).

**Rule 6.1501 Appellate Procedure Timelines**

**Rule 6.1501—Timeline No. 3: Iowa Code Chapter 232 Child in Need of Assistance and Termination of Parental Rights Appeals.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE TIMELINE NO. 3**

**IOWA CODE CHAPTER 232 CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS APPEALS<sup>1</sup>**



1. *Notice of appeal.* A notice of appeal must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the juvenile court order. Iowa R. App. P. 6.101(1)(a). A notice of appeal cannot be filed unless signed by both the appellant and the appellant’s counsel. Iowa Rule App. P. 6.102(1)(a)(1).

2. *Transmission of certified notice of appeal.* Within 4 days after the filing of the notice of appeal, the clerk of the district court transmits a certified copy of the notice of appeal to the clerk of the supreme court and all parties. Iowa R. App. P. 6.802.

3. *Payment of filing fee, ordering transcript(s), and filing combined certificate.* Within 7 days after the filing of the notice of appeal, the appellant pays the filing fee to the clerk of the supreme court or requests a waiver of the fee, Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.204, 6.703, and orders the transcript(s) from the court reporter(s) by completing the combined certificate and serving the certificate on the court reporter(s), Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.803(1), 6.804.<sup>2</sup> The appellant files the combined certificate with the clerk of the district court and the clerk of the supreme court. Iowa R. App. P. 6.804(1).

4. *Petition on appeal.* The appellant files a petition on appeal within 15 days after the filing of the notice of appeal or the appeal will be dismissed. Iowa Rs. App. P. 6.102(1)(e), 6.201.

5. *Response to petition.* The appellee may file a response to a petition within 15 days of service of the petition. Iowa R. App. P. 6.202.

6. *Reply to issues raised in cross-appeal.* If a cross-appeal is filed, the appellant/cross-appellee may file a reply to the cross-appeal within 7 days after service of the appellee/cross-appellant’s response. Iowa R. App. P. 6.203. The appellant may not file a reply if the appellee has not filed a cross-appeal. Iowa R. App. P. 6.203.

7. *Transmission of the record.* Within 30 days after the filing of the notice of appeal, 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 Rs. App. P. 6.204, 6.802(2)(a).

8. *Briefing.* Briefing is done only when directed by the appellate court. Iowa R. App. P. 6.205(1).

**Rules 6.2 to 6.10 Reserved**

<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>See Iowa Rule of Appellate Procedure 6.805 if the appellee wishes to designate additional parts of the transcript(s) or if a dispute arises about which parts of the proceedings are to be transcribed.

**DIVISION XVI**  
**APPELLATE PROCEDURE CHARTS**

**Rule 6.1601 Appellate Procedure Charts**  
**Rule 6.1601—Chart A: Technical Requirements of a Brief.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE CHART A**

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF A BRIEF<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Time to file</b>	<b>Length for proportionally spaced typeface</b>	<b>Length for monospaced typeface</b>	<b>Length for handwritten</b>
<b>Appellant’s brief</b>	50 days after the clerk gives notice of the briefing deadline	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellee’s brief &amp; appellee/cross-appellant’s brief</b>	30 days after service of the appellant’s brief	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellant’s reply brief</b>	21 days after service of the appellee’s brief	6,500 words	650 lines	25 pages
<b>Appellant/cross-appellee’s reply brief</b>	21 days after service of the appellee/cross-appellant’s brief	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellee/cross-appellant’s reply brief</b>	14 days after service of the appellant’s/cross-appellee’s reply brief	6,500 words	650 lines	25 pages
<b>Petition for rehearing in court of appeals<sup>2</sup></b>	7 days after the court of appeals decision	2,600 words	260 lines	10 pages
<b>Application for further review</b>	20 days after the court of appeals decision	5,200 words	520 lines	20 pages
<b>Resistance to application for further review</b>	10 days after service of the application for further review	5,200 words	520 lines	20 pages
<b>Petition for rehearing in supreme court</b>	14 days after the supreme court decision	2,600 words	260 lines	10 pages

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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 chart is merely illustrative of typical appeals and may not cover every procedural situation or type of appeal.

<sup>2</sup>Filing a petition for rehearing in the court of appeals does not stay the time for filing an application for further review. Iowa R. App. P. 6.1204(1).

**Rule 6.1601 Appellate Procedure Charts**

**Rule 6.1601—Chart B: Technical Requirements of a Brief when Expedited Times for Filing Apply.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE CHART B**

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF A BRIEF WHEN EXPEDITED TIMES FOR FILING APPLY<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Time to file</b>	<b>Length for proportionally spaced typeface</b>	<b>Length for monospaced typeface</b>	<b>Length for handwritten</b>
<b>Appellant's brief</b>	25 days after the clerk gives notice of the briefing deadline	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellee's brief &amp; appellee/cross-appellant's brief</b>	15 days after service of the appellant's brief	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellant's reply brief</b>	15 days after service of the appellee's brief	6,500 words	650 lines	25 pages
<b>Appellant/cross-appellee's reply brief</b>	15 days after service of the appellee/cross-appellant's brief	13,000 words	1,300 lines	50 pages
<b>Appellee/cross-appellant's reply brief</b>	7 days after service of the appellant's/cross-appellee's reply brief	6,500 words	650 lines	25 pages
<b>Petition for rehearing in court of appeals<sup>2</sup></b>	7 days after the court of appeals decision	2,600 words	260 lines	10 pages
<b>Application for further review</b>	20 days after the court of appeals decision <sup>3</sup>	5,200 words	520 lines	20 pages
<b>Resistance to application for further review</b>	10 days after service of the application for further review	5,200 words	520 lines	20 pages
<b>Petition for rehearing in supreme court</b>	14 days after the supreme court decision	2,600 words	260 lines	10 pages

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

<sup>2</sup> Filing a petition for rehearing in the court of appeals does not stay the time for filing an application for further review. Iowa R. App. P. 6.1204(1).

<sup>3</sup>In Iowa Code chapter 232 child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights appeals, the time for filing is reduced to 10 days. Iowa R. App. P. 6.1103(1)(a)(1).

**Rule 6.1601 Appellate Procedure Charts**  
**Rule 6.1601—Chart C: Contents of a Brief.**

**APPELLATE PROCEDURE CHART C**

**CONTENTS OF A BRIEF<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Brief section</b>	<b>Appellant</b>	<b>Appellee</b>	<b>Reply</b>	<b>Counted in word, line, or page limit</b>
<b>Caption</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Table of contents</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Table of authorities</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Statement of the issues presented for review</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Routing statement</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Nature of the case</b>	Yes	Only if dissatisfied with the appellant's statements	No	Yes
<b>Statement of the facts</b>	Yes	Only if dissatisfied with the appellant's statements	No	Yes
<b>Jurisdictional statement</b> (for appeals from a final judgment of sentence following a guilty plea)	Yes	Only if dissatisfied with the appellant's statements	No	Yes
<b>Argument</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Statement of error preservation</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Statement of scope and standard of appellate review</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Conclusion</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Request for oral or nonoral submission</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Certificate of cost<sup>2</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Certificate of compliance<sup>3</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Signature block</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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

<sup>2</sup>A certificate of cost is only required for briefs filed in paper form. Iowa R. App. P. 6.903(2)(a)(11).

<sup>3</sup>A certificate of compliance is not required for briefs that are handwritten. Iowa R. App. P. 6.903(1)(i)(4).