

Can't Afford Appellate Costs?

If you disagree with the outcome of your court case, you may be able to appeal the court's decision. Appealing a court decision can be expensive. You may be responsible for filing fees and transcript costs, depending on the type of case. If you cannot afford those costs, you can ask the court to waive your fees.

Watch the Video



Waiver of Costs

- There are two types of costs when filing an appeal:
 - the cost of assembling the record, and
 - the filing fee.
- The first cost covers the lower court's preparation of your case record. The second covers the filing fee of the appellate court.
- You must submit the following two forms to request the court to waive your appellate costs:
 - [CC-DC-091](#) and
 - [CC-DC-092](#).
- Fill out form [MDJ-008](#) on restricted information. File MDJ-008 with your requests to waive costs. Watch the video on the restricted information form at <https://mdcourts.gov/video/courthelp/restrictedinfo>.
- Submit all forms to the court that heard your case, also known as the trial court. This is not the court that will hear the case on appeal.
- The trial court will decide on your request to waive the costs of assembling the record. The higher court will decide next on your request to waive the filing fee. You will receive an order on those decisions.
- If the court denies your request to waive court costs, you must pay the costs due within 10 days of the order. If you fail to pay, the court will dismiss the appeal.

Automatic Waivers

- The court may waive your appellate costs automatically if you have an attorney from an approved legal services provider.
- Maryland Legal Aid and the Office of the Public Defender are both approved legal services providers.

Transcript Costs

- When appealing your case, you may be required to pay for transcripts of your trial. This can be expensive.
- If you appeal from the District Court, you can request that the court waive your transcript costs.
- If you appeal from a circuit court, you will not be able to request a waiver of the transcript costs.

Resources

- Find out more about fee waivers at mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/filingfeewaivers.
- You can contact the clerk's office for more information about costs. The [list of court locations](https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory) can be found at <https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory>.
- You can get assistance with understanding the appeal process and filling out forms at the [Maryland Court Help Center](#) at 410-260-1392, or at mdcourts.gov/helpcenter.



Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.