

Appealing to the Appellate Court of Maryland

Part 5: Understanding the Appellate Court's Decision

Please note that the video series, “Appealing to the Appellate Court of Maryland,” and the accompanying tip sheets cover how to appeal your circuit court case to the Appellate Court of Maryland. For information on appealing a District Court case, visit the Maryland Court Help webpage on [Appeals and Motions After Trial in the District Court](#).

Watch the Video



What the Court Considers When Reviewing an Appeal

- The Appellate Court will rely on the lower court's assessment of the evidence and testimony.
 - Remember, the Appellate Court will not hear from witnesses or review new evidence.
 - It will defer to what the judge of the lower court thought about the reliability of a witness or piece of evidence. For example, the Appellate Court will not try to determine if a witness lied.
- A three-judge panel will review your arguments and consider whether, based upon the evidence presented at trial, the trial court applied the law correctly in your case.

Possible Outcomes of an Appeal

- There are a few different decisions the Court may make:
 - First, the Appellate Court may find that the lower court applied the law correctly in reaching its decision. The decision of the lower court will remain in place. It will be “**affirmed**.” This means the original decision of the trial court will not be changed.
 - Another possibility is that the Appellate Court may find that the trial court made an error. It may take one of several actions. The Court may **vacate** the judgment of the lower court or **reverse** it.
 - The Appellate Court may also **modify** the judgment.
 - Lastly, the Court may send the case back to the lower court for further action, including possibly a new trial. This last type of action is called a “**remand**.”

Resources

- Find more information on appealing to the Appellate Court of Maryland on the Maryland Court Help webpage on [Appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland](#).



Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

- If you want to hire a lawyer but are unsure how to do so, watch the Maryland Court Help video, [“Finding Legal Help in a Civil Case.”](#)
- If you represent yourself in the appeal, consider visiting a law library for help with legal research. A librarian may be able to direct you to the right resources. For a list of hours and locations, visit the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library’s [directory of Maryland circuit court law libraries](#).