



Judges and judicial justices are held accountable by deciding cases in open court, providing reasons for their decisions, and having their decisions subject to an appeal or review process where the decision can be challenged.

Appeals

An appeal asks a higher court (the BC Supreme Court or BC Court of Appeal) to review the decision of a judge or judicial justice to determine if any errors were made by them. The appellate court will consider if there is evidence to support that there was an error in applying the law, a mistake in reviewing the facts or a mix of both. If the higher court finds an error, this may result in overturning a decision, declaring a mistrial or ordering a new trial. You appeal a conviction or sentence for a *Criminal Code* indictable offence to the BC Court of Appeal. You appeal a decision of the Provincial Court to the BC Supreme Court in these types of cases:

- Small claims
- Family
- Criminal Code summary conviction offences (for conviction and sentence appeals)
- Traffic and bylaw

There are time limits for filing appeals. For example, you must file an appeal within 30 days of acquittal or 30 days of the date a sentence is imposed.

[BC Supreme Court](#)
[BC Court of Appeal](#)

Judicial reviews

A judicial review is a review conducted by the BC Supreme Court to determine whether a tribunal or decision maker had the authority to make the decision it did. You may seek judicial review, for example, of a traffic court decision denying an application to extend the dispute

period.

If you have a judicial review before the BC Supreme Court and you need to serve a judge or judicial justice you can do so by sending the petition and all supporting affidavits by courier or registered mail to the Office of the Chief Judge (to the attention of Legal Counsel).

Office of the Chief Judge
Suite 337 - 800 Hornby Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
V6Z 2C5

[Judicial Review Procedure Act](#)

The power of the Chief Judge

The Chief Judge does not have the power to review or change the decision of another judge or a judicial justice made in a case. Only a higher court can change the outcome of a ruling or decision after an appeal or a judicial review.

Filing an appeal or applying for judicial review

Click on one of the links below for information on how to file an appeal or apply for judicial review.

[Appeal criminal \(Legal Aid BC\)](#)

[Appeal family \(Legal Aid BC\)](#)

[Appeal small claims decision \(Clicklaw\)](#)

[Appeal Provincial Court Decision \(Clicklaw\)](#)

[Judicial review \(BC Supreme Court\)](#)

Finding a lawyer or getting legal advice

Information about getting a lawyer and how to get legal advice and legal assistance.



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