

FLORIDA APPEALS

OVERVIEW

Florida's Rules of Court designate the types of appeals that are permitted.

- **Appeal to Circuit Court:** County Court cases - misdemeanors, county civil and traffic infraction cases.
- **Appeal to District Court of Appeal or Florida Supreme Court:** Circuit Court cases – felonies, circuit civil, probate and juvenile cases.
- **Appeal the Florida Supreme Court:** Death penalty cases are appealed directly from the Circuit Court to the Florida Supreme Court by law.

In almost all cases, the appellate court only looks at two things:

- Whether a legal mistake was made in the trial court.
- Whether this mistake changed the final decision (called the “judgment”) in the case.

RESOURCES IN THE JAMES J. LUNSFORD LAW LIBRARY

1. [Florida Appellate Practice](#), Philip J. Padovano (West's Florida Practice Series), Tomson Reuters, Volume 2 (2023 Edition)
2. [Florida Appellate Practice](#), (The Florida Bar) LexisNexis (2022, 12th Edition)
3. [Florida Civil Procedure: Trial and Post-Trial](#), Ervin A. Gonzalez et al (LexisNexis Practice Guide) Volume 5, Chapter 10, Appeals (Filed Through Release No. 35, May 2022)
4. [Florida Civil Procedure: Trial and Post-Trial](#), Henry Latimer et al (LexisNexis Practice Guide) Volume 5, Chapter 10, Appeals, Available on eBook (2023)
5. [Florida Jur2d](#), Thomson Reuters, Florida Legal Encyclopedia covers several areas of Appellate Review: Administrative, Civil, Criminal, etc. - Consult General Index. (Also included on Patron Access Westlaw – search by using “Natural Language” or “Terms and Connectors”)

RESOURCES IN THE JAMES J. LUNSFORD LAW LIBRARY FOR APPELLATE FORMS

- [Florida Appellate Practice](#), Philip J. Padovano (West's Florida Practice Series), Tomson Reuters, Volume 2 (2023 Edition) Appendix B
- [Florida Pleading and Practice Forms](#), Tomson Reuters – Consult General Index. (Also included on Patron Access Westlaw – search by using “Natural Language” or “Terms and Connectors”)
- GALE Legal Forms Database- has non-Florida specific examples to use as a template
- Westlaw is available for customer use at the following branches: James J. Lunsford Law Library, Bloomingdale Regional Public Library and Jimmie B Keel Regional Library

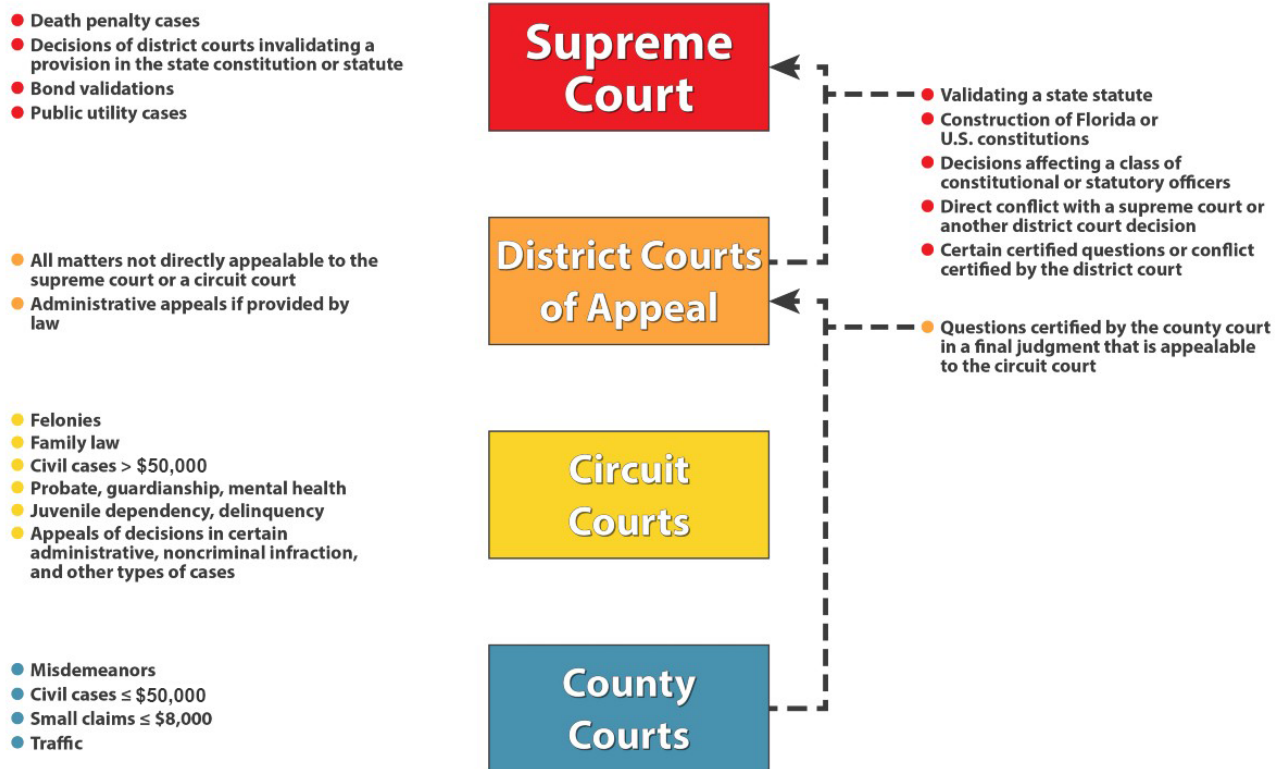
Ask your librarian for additional resources.

The [FLORIDA COURTS JURISDICTION](http://www.flcourts.gov) chart below is from the Office of The State Courts Administrator’s website: (www.flcourts.gov) It may help to determine which court has jurisdiction in your Appeal.

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) was created in 1972 to serve the chief justice in carrying out his or her responsibilities as the chief administrative officer of the judicial branch, which includes the Florida Supreme Court, six district courts of appeal, 20 circuit courts & 67 county courts. OSCA also prepares the branch’s budget requests, collects, and analyzes court-related data, certifies and trains mediators and court interpreters, and coordinates education programs and publications for judges and court employees.

Florida Courts Jurisdiction

Effective 1/1/2023



This chart is a general guide to the jurisdiction of courts in Florida. The bullets on the left side of the chart specify matters within the primary jurisdiction of the court and the bullets on the right side specify appeals for which the Florida Supreme Court and Florida District Courts of Appeal have discretionary jurisdiction. This chart is not intended to be comprehensive; many exceptions and distinctions exist.

NOTICE: This research guide is based on information gathered from the resources cited above. For more information on this or other legal topics visit the James J. Lunsford Law Library.

IF YOU ARE ACTING AS YOUR OWN ATTORNEY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT INVOLVES YOUR CASE. Remember: Check with the Clerk of the Court for filing fees/court costs.