

1 **Rule 26. Filing and serving briefs.**

2 (a) **Time to file and serve briefs in cases not involving a cross-appeal.**

3 **(1) Appellant's principal brief.** The appellant must file and serve a principal brief
4 within 40 days after date of notice from the appellate court clerk pursuant to Rule 13.
5 If a motion for summary disposition of the appeal or a motion to remand for
6 determination of ineffective assistance of counsel is filed after the Rule 13 briefing
7 notice is sent, an appellant's principal brief must be filed and served within 30 days
8 from the denial of such motion.

9 **(2) Appellee's principal brief.** The appellee, ~~or in cases involving a cross-appeal, the~~
10 ~~cross-appellant,~~ must file and serve a principal brief within 30 days after service of the
11 appellant's principal brief. ~~In cases involving cross-appeals, the appellant must file~~
12 ~~and serve the appellant's reply brief described in Rule 24A(d) within 30 days after~~
13 ~~service of the cross-appellant's principal brief. A reply brief may be filed and served~~
14 ~~by the appellant or the cross-appellant in cases involving cross-appeals.~~

15 **(3) Appellant's reply brief.** The appellant may file a reply brief. If a reply brief is filed,
16 it must be filed and served within 30 days after the filing and service of the appellee's
17 principal brief ~~or the appellant's reply brief in cases involving cross-appeals.~~ If oral
18 argument is scheduled fewer than 35 days after the filing of appellee's principal brief,
19 the reply brief must be filed at least five days ~~prior to oral argument. By stipulation~~
20 ~~filed with the court in accordance with Rule 21(a), the parties may extend each of such~~
21 ~~periods for no more than 30 days. A motion for enlargement of time need not~~
22 ~~accompany the stipulation. No such stipulation will be effective unless it is filed prior~~
23 ~~to the expiration of the period sought to be extended.~~ before oral argument.

24 (b) **Time to file and serve briefs in cases involving a cross-appeal.**

25 **(1) Appellant's principal brief.** The appellant must file and serve a principal brief
26 within 40 days after date of notice from the appellate court clerk pursuant to Rule 13.
27 If a motion for summary disposition of the appeal or a motion to remand for

28 determination of ineffective assistance of counsel is filed after the Rule 13 briefing
29 notice is sent, an appellant's principal brief must be filed and served within 30 days
30 from the denial of such motion.

31 (2) Cross-appellant's principal brief. The cross-appellant must file and serve the
32 cross-appellant's principal brief as described in Rule 24A(c) within 30 days after
33 service of the appellant's principal brief.

34 (3) Appellant's reply brief. The appellant must file and serve the appellant's reply
35 brief described in Rule 24A(d) within 30 days after service of the cross-appellant's
36 principal brief.

37 (4) Cross-appellant's reply brief. The cross-appellant may file a reply brief as
38 described in Rule 24A(e). If a reply brief is filed, it must be filed and served within 30
39 days after the filing and service of the appellant's reply brief. If oral argument is
40 scheduled fewer than 35 days after the filing of appellant's reply brief, cross-
41 appellant's reply brief must be filed at least five days before oral argument.

42 (c) Extensions of time. A party may seek an extensions of time for the filing of a brief as
43 provided in Rule 22.

44 (d) Number of copies.

45 (1) Supreme Court. For matters pending in the Supreme Court, eight paper copies of
46 each brief, ~~one of which shall contain an original signature,~~ must be filed with the
47 Supreme Court Clerk. One of the filed copies must contain an original signature
48 unless the brief was filed electronically.

49 (2) Court of Appeals. For matters pending in the Court of Appeals, six paper copies
50 of each brief, ~~one of which shall contain an original signature,~~ must be filed with the
51 Court of Appeals Clerk. One of the filed copies must contain an original signature
52 unless the brief was filed electronically.

53 (3) Time to file copies of electronically filed briefs. If a brief was e-filed or filed by
54 email, the required paper copies of the brief must be delivered to the clerk no more

55 than seven days after filing. ~~If a brief is served by e-filing or email, upon request two~~
56 ~~paper copies must be delivered to counsel for each party separately requesting paper~~
57 ~~copies.~~

58 **(ee) Consequence of failing to file principal briefs.** If an appellant fails to file a principal
59 brief within the time provided in this rule, or within the time as may be extended by order
60 of the appellate court, an appellee may move for dismissal of the appeal. If an appellee
61 fails to file a principal brief within the time provided by this rule, or within the time as
62 may be extended by appellate court order, an appellant may move that the appellee not
63 be heard at oral argument.

64 **(df) Return of record to the clerk.** If a party checks out the physical record from the
65 appellate court clerk, then that party must return the physical record and all exhibits to
66 the clerk when that party files its brief.

67 *Effective March 6, 2026*⁴