

1 **Rule 27. Form of briefs, motions, and other documents.**

2 (a) **Form of briefs, motions, and other documents.** Except as otherwise provided in this
3 rule or by leave of court, all briefs, motions, and other documents must comply with the
4 following standards:

5 (1) **Size, line spacing, and margins.** All documents must be prepared on 8½ by 11-
6 inch sized paper. The text must be double spaced, except for matter customarily single
7 spaced and indented. Margins must be at least one inch on all sides. Page numbers
8 are required and may appear in the margins.

9 (2) **Typeface.** The type must be plain and legible. Italics or boldface may be used for
10 emphasis. Cited case names must be italicized or underlined.

11 (3) **Typesize.** The typeface must be 13-point or larger for both text and footnotes.

12 (b) **Documents submitted by unrepresented parties.** An unrepresented party who does
13 not have access to a word-processing system must file typewritten or legibly handwritten
14 briefs, motions, and other appellate documents. An unrepresented party must sign any
15 document filed with the court. These documents must otherwise comply with the form
16 requirements of this rule, and, if applicable, [Rules 24](#) and [24A](#).

17 (c) **Cover page for briefs on the merits and petitions.**

18 (1) **Caption.** The cover of each brief or the first page of a petition must contain a
19 caption that includes the following information:

20 (A) the number of the case in the appellate court (if available);

21 (B) the name of the appellate court;

22 (C) the full title given to the case in the court or agency from which the appeal is
23 taken;

24 (D) the designation of the parties both as they appeared in the court or agency
25 from which the appeal is taken and as they appear in the appellate proceeding;

26 (E) the title or description of the document (e.g., Brief of Appellant, Petition for
27 Permission to File Interlocutory Appeal, Petition for Rehearing, Petition for
28 Extraordinary Relief);

29 (F) the nature of the proceeding in the appellate court (e.g., Appeal, Petition for
30 Review) if not apparent from the title or description of the document; and;

31 (G) the name of the court and judge, agency, or board from which the appeal is
32 taken and the case or proceeding number.

33 (2) **Counsel or unrepresented party information.** The identifying and contact
34 information of the counsel or unrepresented party filing the document must appear
35 in the lower right corner of the cover page.

36 (A) Counsel's information must include counsel's:

37 (i) name;

38 (ii) Utah State Bar number;

39 (iii) mailing address;

40 (iv) email address;

41 (v) telephone number; and

42 (vi) a designation indicating the party counsel represents in the appeal (e.g.,
43 Counsel for Appellant, Petitioner, Appellee, or Respondent).

44 (B) An unrepresented party's information must include the party's:

45 (i) name;

46 (ii) mailing address;

47 (iii) email address (if any);

48 (iv) telephone number (if any); and

49 (v) a statement identifying the party's designation in the appeal (e.g.,
50 Appellant, Petitioner, Appellee, or Respondent).

51 **(3) Incarceration and case type designations.**

52 **(A) Incarceration.** In a criminal case, the cover of the appellant's brief must
53 indicate whether the defendant is presently incarcerated in connection with the
54 case on appeal.

55 **(B) Anders brief.** In a criminal case, the cover of the appellant's brief must, if
56 applicable, state that it is an Anders brief filed pursuant to Anders v. California, 386
57 U.S. 793 (1967), because counsel believes no nonfrivolous appellate issue exists.

58 **(C) Pretrial detention.** In a criminal case challenging a pretrial detention order, the
59 cover of the appellant's brief must, if applicable, state that the appellant claims the
60 right to an expedited appeal pursuant to Utah Code section 77-20-209.

61 **(D) Parental rights and child custody.** In a case challenging an order affecting
62 parental rights or a child's physical custody, the cover of the appellant's brief must
63 state that it is such a case.

64 **(d) Motions and appellate documents other than briefs and petitions.**

65 (1) **Caption.** The first page of a motion or appellate document other than a brief or
66 petition must include a caption with the following information:

67 (A) the number of the case in the appellate court (if available);

68 (B) the name of the appellate court;

69 (C) the full title given to the case in the court or agency from which the appeal is
70 taken;

71 (D) the designation of the parties both as they appeared in the court or agency
72 from which the appeal is taken and as they appear in the appellate proceeding;
73 and

74 (E) the title or description of the document (e.g., Motion to Dismiss, Docketing
75 Statement, Stipulation, Motion to Extend Time, Notice).

76 (2) **Counsel or unrepresented party information.** The identifying and contact
77 information of the counsel or unrepresented party filing the document must appear
78 in the upper left corner of the first page.

79 (A) Counsel's information must include counsel's:

80 (i) name;

81 (ii) Utah State Bar number;

82 (iii) mailing address;

83 (iv) email address;

84 (v) telephone number; and

85 (vi) a designation indicating which party counsel represents in the appeal (e.g.,
86 Counsel for Appellant, Petitioner, Appellee, or Respondent).

87 (B) An unrepresented party's information must include the party's:

88 (i) name

89 (ii) mailing address;

90 (iii) email address (if any);

91 (iv) telephone number (if any); and

92 (v) a statement identifying the party's designation in the appeal (e.g.,
93 Appellant, Petitioner, Appellee, or Respondent).

94 (e) **Additional requirements for briefs on the merits.**

95 (1) **Form of submission.** Hard copies of the briefs must be submitted on 20 lb. bond
96 standard paper. Except for the cover page, briefs must be printed double sided. Briefs

97 must not be stapled or bound along the left edge, but must be secured with a binder
98 clip.

99 (2) **Color of cover page.** There must be adequate contrast between the printing and
100 the color of the cover page. The color of the cover page must be as follows:

Document	Cover Page Color
Opening Brief of Appellant or Petitioner	Blue
Brief of Appellee or Respondent	Red
Brief of Intervenor, Guardian ad Litem, or Amicus Curiae	Green
Reply Brief	Gray
Appellant's or Petitioner's Second Brief in a Case Involving a Cross-Appeal or Cross-Petition	Gray

101 ~~(3) **Criminal appeals.** In criminal cases, the cover of the defendant's brief must also~~
102 ~~state whether the defendant is presently incarcerated in connection with the case on~~
103 ~~appeal and if the brief is an Anders brief. An Anders brief is a brief filed pursuant~~
104 ~~to Anders v. California, 386 U.S. 793 (1967), in cases where counsel believes no~~
105 ~~nonfrivolous appellate issues exist.~~

106 (4) **Effect of noncompliance.** The appellate court clerk will examine all briefs before
107 filing. If a brief is not prepared in accordance with these rules, the clerk may lodge the
108 brief and notify the party of the deficiency. The clerk will retain one copy of the
109 noncomplying brief and, after the party is notified, the party must file a brief prepared
110 in compliance with these rules within five days. The clerk may grant additional time
111 for bringing a brief into compliance. This rule is not intended to permit significant
112 substantive changes in briefs.

113 Effective ~~May 1, 2026~~