

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 must file and serve a principal brief
10 within 30 days after service of the appellant’s principal brief.

11 (3) **Appellant’s reply brief.** The appellant may file a reply brief. If a reply brief is filed,
12 it must be filed and served within 30 days after the filing and service of the appellee’s
13 principal brief. If oral argument is scheduled fewer than 35 days after the filing of
14 appellee’s principal brief, the reply brief must be filed at least five days before oral
15 argument.

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

17 (1) **Appellant’s principal brief.** The appellant must file and serve a principal brief
18 within 40 days after date of notice from the appellate court clerk pursuant to [Rule 13](#).
19 If a motion for summary disposition of the appeal or a motion to remand for
20 determination of ineffective assistance of counsel is filed after the [Rule 13](#) briefing
21 notice is sent, an appellant’s principal brief must be filed and served within 30 days
22 from the denial of such motion.

23 (2) **Cross-appellant’s principal brief.** The cross-appellant must file and serve the
24 cross-appellant’s principal brief as described in [Rule 24A\(c\)](#) within 30 days after
25 service of the appellant’s principal brief.

26 (3) **Appellant’s reply brief.** The appellant must file and serve the appellant’s reply
27 brief described in [Rule 24A\(d\)](#) within 30 days after service of the cross-appellant’s
28 principal brief.

29 (4) **Cross-appellant’s reply brief.** The cross-appellant may file a reply brief as
30 described in [Rule 24A\(e\)](#). If a reply brief is filed, it must be filed and served within 30
31 days after the filing and service of the appellant’s reply brief. If oral argument is
32 scheduled fewer than 35 days after the filing of appellant’s reply brief, cross-
33 appellant’s reply brief must be filed at least five days before oral argument.

34 (c) **Extensions of time.** A party may seek an extension of time for the filing of a brief as
35 provided in [Rule 22](#).

36 (d) **Number of copies.**

37 (1) **Supreme Court.** For matters pending in the Supreme Court, ~~eight~~[ten](#) paper copies
38 of each brief must be filed with the Supreme Court Clerk. One of the filed copies must
39 contain an original signature unless the brief was filed electronically.

40 (2) **Court of Appeals.** For matters pending in the Court of Appeals, six paper copies
41 of each brief must be filed with the Court of Appeals Clerk. One of the filed copies
42 must contain an original signature unless the brief was filed electronically.

43 (3) **Time to file copies of electronically filed briefs.** If a brief was e-filed or filed by
44 email, the required paper copies of the brief must be delivered to the clerk no more
45 than seven days after filing.

46 (e) **Consequence of failing to file principal briefs.** If an appellant fails to file a principal
47 brief within the time provided in this rule, or within the time as may be extended by order
48 of the appellate court, an appellee may move for dismissal of the appeal. If an appellee
49 fails to file a principal brief within the time provided by this rule, or within the time as
50 may be extended by appellate court order, an appellant may move that the appellee not
51 be heard at oral argument.

52 (f) **Return of record to the clerk.** If a party checks out the physical record from the
53 appellate court clerk, then that party must return the physical record and all exhibits to
54 the clerk when that party files its brief.

55 *Effective [March 18, 2026](#)*