



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE
SELF-HELP CENTER**

www.occourts.org

**PETITIONING FOR A WRIT OF MANDATE
IN A MISDEMEANOR, INFRACTION OR
LIMITED CIVIL CASE**

All documents must be typed or printed neatly.

Please use black ink.

Self-Help Center Locations:

Lamoreaux Justice Center

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341 The City Drive

Orange, CA



Central Justice Center

Room G-100

700 Civic Center Drive

Santa Ana, CA



Superior Court

Service Center

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Fullerton, CA



GENERAL INFORMATION

① What does this information sheet cover?

This information sheet tells you about **writ proceedings**—proceedings in which a person is asking for a writ of mandate, prohibition, or review—in misdemeanor, infraction, and limited civil cases, and in certain small claims cases. Please read this information sheet before you fill out *Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor, Infraction, or Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-151). This information sheet does not cover everything you may need to know about writ proceedings. It is only meant to give you a general idea of the writ process. To learn more, you should read rules 8.930–8.936 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the procedures for writ proceedings in the appellate division. You can get these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/rules.

This information sheet does NOT provide information about appeals or proceedings for writs of supersedeas or habeas corpus, or for writs in certain small claims cases.

- For information about appeals, please see the box on the right side of this page.
- For information about writs of habeas corpus, please see rules 4.550–4.552 of the California Rules of Court and *Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus* (form MC-275).
- For information about writs of supersedeas, please see rule 8.824 of the California Rules of Court.
- This information sheet applies to writs relating to *postjudgment enforcement actions* of the small claims division. For information about writs relating to other actions by the small claims division, see rules 8.930–8.936 of the California Rules of Court and *Petition for Writ (Small Claims)* (form SC-300).
- For information about writs relating to actions of the superior court on small claims appeals, see rules 8.485–8.493 of the California Rules of Court.

You can get these rules and forms at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/rules for the rules or www.courts.ca.gov/forms for the forms.

② What is a writ?

A writ is an order from a higher court telling a lower court to do something the law says the lower court must do or not to do something the law says the lower court does not have the power to do. In writ proceedings in the appellate division, the lower court is the superior court that took the action or issued the order being challenged.

For information about appeal procedures, see:

- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors* (form CR-131-INFO)
- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Infractions* (form CR-141-INFO)
- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-101-INFO)

You can get these forms at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms.

In this information sheet, we call the lower court the “trial court.”

③ Are there different kinds of writs?

Yes. There are three main kinds of writs:

- Writs of mandate (sometimes called “mandamus”), which are orders telling the trial court to do something.
- Writs of prohibition, which are orders telling the trial court not to do something.
- Writs of review (sometimes called “certiorari”), which are orders telling the trial court that the appellate division will review certain kinds of actions already taken by the trial court.

There are laws (statutes) that you should read concerning each type of writ: see California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1084–1097 about writs of mandate, sections 1102–1105 about writs of prohibition, and sections 1067–1077 about writs of review. You can get copies of



these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml.

4 Is a writ proceeding the same as an appeal?

No. In an **appeal**, the appellate division *must* consider the parties' arguments and decide whether the trial court made the legal error claimed by the appealing party and whether the trial court's decision should be overturned based on that error (this is called a "decision on the merits"). In a **writ proceeding**, the appellate division is *not* required to make a decision on the merits; even if the trial court made a legal error, the appellate division can decide not to consider that error now, but to wait and consider the error as part of any appeal from the final judgment. Most requests for writs are denied without a decision on the merits (this is called a "summary denial"). Because of this, appeals are the ordinary way that decisions made by a trial court are reviewed and writ proceedings are often called proceedings for "extraordinary" relief.

Appeals and writ proceedings are also used to review different kinds of decisions by the trial court. Appeals can be used only to review a trial court's final judgment and a few kinds of orders. Most rulings made by a trial court before it issues its final judgment cannot be appealed right away; they can only be appealed after the trial court case is over, as part of an appeal of the final judgment. Unlike appeals, writ proceedings can be used to ask for review of certain kinds of important rulings made by a trial court before it issues its final judgment.

5 Is a writ proceeding a new trial?

No. A **writ proceeding is NOT a new trial**. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses. Instead, if it does not summarily deny the request for a writ, the appellate division reviews a record of what happened in the trial court and the trial court's ruling to see if the trial court made the legal error claimed by the person asking for the writ. When it conducts its review, the appellate division presumes that the trial court's ruling is correct; the person who requests the writ must show the appellate division that the trial court made the legal error the person is claiming.

6 Can a writ be used to address any errors made by a trial court?

No.

Writs can only address certain legal errors. Writs can only address the following types of legal errors made by a trial court:

- The trial court has a legal duty to act but:
 - Refuses to act
 - Has not done what the law says it must do
 - Has acted in a way the law says it does not have the power to act
- The trial court has performed or says it is going to perform a judicial function (like deciding a person's rights under law in a particular case) in a way that the court does not have the legal power to do.

There must be no other adequate remedy. The trial court's error must also be something that can be fixed only with a writ. The person asking for the writ must show the appellate division that there is no adequate way to address the trial court's error other than with the writ (this is called having "no adequate remedy at law"). As mentioned above, appeals are the ordinary way that trial court decisions are reviewed. If the trial court's ruling can be appealed, the appellate division will generally consider an appeal to be good enough (an "adequate remedy") unless the person asking for the writ can show the appellate division that he or she will be harmed in a way that cannot be fixed by the appeal if the appellate division does not issue the writ (this is called "irreparable" injury or harm).

Statutory writs: There are laws (statutes) that provide that certain kinds of rulings can or must be challenged using a writ proceeding. These are called "statutory writs." Here is a list of some of the most common rulings that a statute says can or must be challenged using a writ:

- A ruling on a motion to disqualify a judge (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 170.3(d))
- Denial of a motion for summary judgment (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 437c(m)(1))



- A ruling on a motion for summary adjudication of issues (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 437c(m)(1))
- Denial of a stay in an unlawful detainer matter (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 1176)
- An order disqualifying the prosecuting attorney (see California Penal Code section 1424)

You can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml. You will need to check whether there is a statute providing that the specific ruling you want to challenge can or must be reviewed using a writ proceeding. (Note that just because there is a statute requiring or allowing you to ask for a writ to challenge a ruling does not mean that the court must grant your request; the appellate division can still deny a request for a statutory writ.)

Common law writs: Even if there is not a statute specifically providing for a writ proceeding to challenge a particular ruling, most trial court rulings other than the final judgment can potentially be challenged using a writ proceeding if the trial court made the type of legal error described above and the petitioner has no other adequate remedy at law. These writs are called “common law” writs.

7 Can the appellate division consider a request for a writ in *any* case?

No. Different courts have the power (called “jurisdiction”) to consider requests for writs in different types of cases. The appellate division can only consider requests for writs in limited civil, misdemeanor, and infraction cases, and certain small claims cases. A limited civil case is a civil case in which the amount claimed is \$25,000 or less (see California Code of Civil Procedure sections 85 and 88). Misdemeanor cases are cases in which a person has been charged with or convicted of a crime for which the punishment can include jail time of up to one year but not time in state prison (see California Penal Code sections 17 and 19.2). (If the person was also charged with or convicted of a felony in the same case, it is considered a felony case, not a misdemeanor case.) Infraction cases are cases in which a person has been charged with or convicted of a

crime for which the punishment can be a fine, traffic school, or some form of community service but cannot include any time in jail or prison (see California Penal Code sections 17 and 19.8). Examples of infractions include traffic tickets or citations for violations of some city or county ordinances. (If a person was also charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor in the same case, it is considered a misdemeanor case, not an infraction case.) You can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml. The appellate division can consider requests for writs in small claims actions relating to postjudgment enforcement orders.

The appellate division does NOT have jurisdiction to consider requests for writs in either unlimited civil cases (civil cases in which the amount claimed is more than \$25,000) or felony cases (cases in which a person has been charged with or convicted of a crime for which the punishment can include time in state prison). Requests for writs in these cases can be made in the Court of Appeal. The appellate division also does NOT have jurisdiction to consider requests for writs of habeas corpus; requests for these writs can be made in the superior court.

Requests for writs relating to actions of the small claims division *other* than postjudgment enforcement orders are considered by a single judge in the appellate division. (See form SC-300-INFO.) Requests for writs relating to superior court actions in small claims cases on appeal may be made to the Court of Appeal.

8 Who are the parties in a writ proceeding?

If you are asking for the writ, you are called the PETITIONER. You should read “Information for the Petitioner,” beginning on page 4.

The court the petitioner is asking to be ordered to do or not to do something is called the RESPONDENT. In appellate division writ proceedings, the trial court is the respondent.

Any other party in the trial court case who would be affected by a ruling regarding the request for a writ is a REAL PARTY IN INTEREST. If you are a real party in interest, you should read “Information for a Real Party in Interest,” beginning on page 10.



9 Do I need a lawyer to represent me in a writ proceeding?

You do not *have* to have a lawyer; you are allowed to represent yourself in a writ proceeding in the appellate division. But writ proceedings can be very complicated and you will have to follow the same rules that lawyers have to follow. If you have any questions about the writ procedures, you should talk to a lawyer. In limited civil cases and infraction cases, you must hire a lawyer at your own expense if you want one (the court cannot provide one). You can get information about finding a lawyer on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm.

INFORMATION FOR THE PETITIONER

This part of the information sheet is written for the petitioner—the party asking for the writ. It explains some of the rules and procedures relating to asking for a writ. The information may also be helpful to a real party in interest. There is more information for a real party in interest starting on page 10 of this information sheet.

10 Who can ask for a writ?

Only a party in the trial court proceeding—the plaintiff or defendant in a civil case or the defendant or prosecuting agency in a misdemeanor or infraction case—can ask for a writ challenging a ruling on a motion to disqualify a judge (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 170.3(d)). Parties are also usually the only ones that ask for writs challenging other kinds of trial court rulings. However, in most cases, a person who was not a party does have the legal right to ask for a writ if that person has a “beneficial interest” in the trial court’s ruling. A “beneficial interest” means that the person has a specific right or interest affected by the ruling that goes beyond the general rights or interests the public may have in the ruling.

11 How do I ask for a writ?

To ask for a writ you must serve and file a petition for a writ (see below for an explanation of how to “serve and file” a petition). A petition is a formal request that the appellate division issue a writ. A petition for a writ

explains to the appellate division what happened in the trial court, what legal error you (the petitioner) believe the trial court made, why you have no other adequate remedy at law, and what order you are requesting the appellate division to make.

12 How do I prepare a writ petition?

If you are represented by a lawyer, your lawyer will prepare your petition for a writ. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you must use *Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor, Infraction, or Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-151) to prepare your petition. You can get form APP-151 at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms. This form asks you to fill in the information that needs to be in a writ petition.

a. Description of your interest in the trial court’s ruling

Your petition needs to tell the appellate division why you have a right to ask for a writ in the case. As discussed above, usually only a person who was a party in the trial court case—the plaintiff or defendant in a civil case or the defendant or prosecuting agency in a misdemeanor or infraction case—asks for a writ challenging a ruling in that case. If you were a party in the trial court case, say that in your petition. If you were not a party, you will need to describe what “beneficial interest” you have in the trial court’s ruling. A “beneficial interest” means that you have a specific right or interest affected by the ruling that goes beyond the general rights or interests the public may have in the ruling. To show the appellate division that you have a beneficial interest in the ruling you want to challenge, you must describe how the ruling will affect you in a direct and negative way.

b. Description of the legal error you believe the trial court made

Your petition will need to tell the appellate division what legal error you believe the trial court made. Not every mistake a trial court might make can be addressed by a writ. You must show that the trial court made one of the following types of legal errors:



- The trial court has a legal duty to act but:
 - Refuses to act
 - Has not done what the law says it must do
 - Has acted in a way the law says it does not have the power to act
- The trial court has performed or says it is going to perform a judicial function (like deciding a person's rights under law in a particular case) in a way that the court does not have the legal power to do.

To show the appellate division that the trial court made one of these legal errors, you will need to:

- Show that the trial court has the legal duty or the power to act or not act in a particular way. You will need to tell the appellate division what legal authority—what constitutional provision, statute, rule, or published court decision—establishes the trial court's legal duty or power to act or not act in that way.
- Show the appellate division that the trial court has not acted in the way that this legal authority says the court is required to act. You will need to tell the appellate division exactly where in the record of what happened in the trial court it shows that the trial court did not act in the way it was required to.

c. Description of why you need the writ

One of the most important parts of your petition is explaining to the appellate division why you need the writ you have requested. Remember, the appellate division does not have to grant your petition just because the trial court made an error. You must convince the appellate division that it is important for it to issue the writ.

Your petition needs to show that a writ is the only way to fix the trial court's error. To convince the court you need the writ, you will need to show the appellate division that you have no way to fix the trial court's error other than through a writ (this is called having "no adequate remedy at law").

This will be hard if the trial court's ruling can be appealed. If the ruling you are challenging can be appealed, either immediately or as part of an appeal of

the final judgment in your case, the appellate division will generally consider this appeal to be a good enough way to fix the trial court's ruling (an "adequate remedy"). To be able to explain to the appellate division why you do not have an adequate remedy at law, you will need to find out if the ruling you want to challenge can be appealed, either immediately or as part of an appeal of the final judgment.

Here are some trial court rulings that can be appealed.

There are laws (statutes) that say that certain kinds of trial court rulings ("orders") can be appealed immediately. In limited civil cases, California Code of Civil Procedure section 904.2 lists orders that can be appealed immediately, including orders:

- Changing or refusing to change the place of trial (venue)
- Granting a motion to quash service of summons
- Granting a motion to stay or dismiss the action on the ground of inconvenient forum
- Granting a new trial
- Denying a motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict
- Granting or dissolving an injunction or refusing to grant or dissolve an injunction
- Appointing a receiver
- Made after final judgment in the case

In misdemeanor and infraction cases, orders made after the final judgment that affect the substantial rights of the defendant can be appealed immediately (California Penal Code section 1466).

In misdemeanor cases, orders granting or denying a motion to suppress evidence can also be appealed immediately (California Penal Code section 1538.5(j)).

You can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml. You should also check to see if there are published court decisions that indicate whether you can



or must use an appeal or a writ petition to challenge the type of ruling you want to challenge in your case.

If the ruling can be appealed, you will need to show that an appeal will not fix the trial court's error. If the trial court ruling you want to challenge can be appealed, you will need to show the appellate division why that appeal is not good enough to fix the trial court's error. To do that, you will need to show the appellate division how you will be harmed by the trial court's error in a way that cannot be fixed by the appeal if the appellate division does not issue the writ (this is called "irreparable" injury or harm). For example, because of the time it takes for an appeal, the harm you want to prevent may happen before an appeal can be finished.

d. Description of the order you want the appellate division to make

Your petition needs to describe what you are asking the appellate division to order the trial court to do or not do. Writ petitions usually ask that the trial court be ordered to cancel ("vacate") its ruling, issue a new ruling, or not take any steps to enforce its ruling.

If you want the appellate division to order the trial court not to do anything more until the appellate division decides whether to grant the writ you are requesting, you must ask for a "stay." If you want a stay, you should first ask the trial court for a stay. You should tell the appellate division whether you asked the trial court for a stay. If you did not ask the trial court for a stay, you should tell the appellate division why you did not do this.

If you ask the appellate division for a stay, make sure you also fill out the "Stay requested" box on the first page of the *Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor, Infraction, or Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-151).

e. Verifying the petition

Petitions for writs must be "verified." This means that either the petitioner or the petitioner's attorney must declare under penalty of perjury that the facts stated in the petition are true and correct, must sign the petition, and must indicate the date that the petition was signed. On the last page of the *Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor,*

Infraction, or Limited Civil Case) (form APP-151), there is a place for you to verify your petition.

13 Is there anything else that I need to serve and file with my petition?

Yes. Along with the petition, you must serve and file a record of what happened in the trial court (see below for an explanation of how to serve and file the petition). Since the appellate division judges were not there in the trial court, a record of what happened must be sent to the appellate division for its review. The materials that make up this record are called "supporting documents."

What needs to be in the supporting documents. The supporting documents must include:

- A record of what was said in the trial court about the ruling that you are challenging (this is called the "oral proceedings") and
- Copies of certain important documents from the trial court.

Read below for more information about these two parts of the supporting documents.

Record of the oral proceedings. There are several ways a record of what was said in the trial court may be provided to the appellate division:

- **A transcript**—A transcript is a written record (often called the "verbatim" record) of the oral proceedings in the trial court. If a court reporter was in the trial court and made a record of the oral proceedings, you can have the court reporter prepare a transcript of those oral proceedings, called a "reporter's transcript," for the appellate division. If a reporter was not there, but the oral proceedings were officially recorded on approved electronic recording equipment, you can have a transcript prepared for the appellate division from the official electronic recording of these proceedings. You (the petitioner) must pay for preparing a transcript, unless the court orders otherwise.
- **A copy of an electronic recording**—If the oral proceedings were officially recorded on approved electronic recording equipment, the court has a local rule for the appellate division permitting this



recording to be used as the record of the oral proceedings, and all the parties agree (“stipulate”), a copy of the official electronic recording itself can be used as the record of the oral proceedings instead of a transcript. You (the petitioner) must pay for preparing a copy of the official electronic recording, unless the court orders otherwise.

- **A summary**—If a transcript or official electronic recording of what was said in the trial court is not available, your petition must include a declaration (a statement signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury) either:
 - Explaining why the transcript or official electronic recording is not available and providing a fair summary of the proceedings, including the petitioner’s arguments and any statement by the court supporting its ruling or
 - Stating that the transcript or electronic recording has been ordered, the date it was ordered, and the date it is expected to be filed.

Copies of documents from the trial court. Copies of the following documents from the trial court must also be included in the supporting documents:

- The trial court ruling being challenged in the petition
- All documents and exhibits submitted to the trial court supporting and opposing the petitioner’s position
- Any other documents or portions of documents submitted to the trial court that are necessary for a complete understanding of the case and of the ruling being challenged

What if I cannot get copies of the documents from the trial court because of an emergency? Rule 8.931 of the California Rules of Court provides that in extraordinary circumstances the petition may be filed without copies of the documents from the trial court. If the petition is filed without these documents, you must explain in your petition the urgency and the circumstances making the documents available.

Format of the supporting documents. Supporting documents must be put in the format required by rule

8.931 of the California Rules of Court. Among other things, there must be a tab for each document and an index listing the documents that are included. You should carefully read rule 8.931. You can get a copy of rule 8.931 at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/rules.

14 Is there a deadline to ask for a writ?

Yes. For statutory writs, the statute usually sets the deadline for serving and filing the petition. Here is a list of the deadlines for filing petitions for some of the most common statutory writs (you can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml).

Statutory Writ	Filing Deadline
Writ challenging a ruling on a motion to disqualify a judge (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 170.3(d))	10 days after notice to the parties of the decision
Writ challenging the denial of a motion for summary judgment (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 437c(m)(l))	20 days after service of written notice of entry of the order
Writ challenging a ruling on a motion for summary adjudication of issues (see California Code of Civil Procedure section 437c(m)(l))	20 days after service of written notice of entry of the order

For common law writs or statutory writs where the statute does not set a deadline, you should file the petition as soon as possible and not later than 30 days after the court makes the ruling that you are challenging in the petition. While there is no absolute deadline for filing these petitions, writ petitions are usually used when it is urgent that the trial court’s error be fixed. Remember, the court is not required to grant your petition even if the trial court made an error. If you delay in filing your petition, it may make the appellate division think that it is not really urgent that the trial court’s error be fixed and the appellate division may deny your petition. If there are extraordinary circumstances that



delayed the filing of your petition, you should explain these circumstances to the appellate division in your petition.

15 How do I “serve” my petition?

Rule 8.931(d) requires that the petition and one set of supporting documents be served on any named real party in interest and that just the petition be served on the respondent trial court. “Serving” a petition on a party means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver (“serve”) the petition to the real party in interest and the respondent court in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the petition has been served. This record is called a “proof of service.” *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the petition, who was served with the petition, how the petition was served (by mail or in person), and the date the petition was served.

You can get more information about how to serve court documents and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.

16 How do I file my petition?

To file a petition for a writ in the appellate division, you must bring or mail the original petition, including the supporting documents, and the proof of service to the clerk for the appellate division of the superior court that made the ruling you are challenging. If the superior court has more than one courthouse location, you should call the clerk at the courthouse where the ruling you are challenging was made to ask where to file your petition. You should make a copy of all the documents you are planning to file for your own records before you file them with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the petition to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

17 Do I have to pay to file a petition?

There is no fee to file a petition for a writ in a misdemeanor or infraction case, but there is a fee to file a petition for a writ in a limited civil case. You should ask the clerk for the appellate division where you are filing the petition what this fee is. If you cannot afford to pay this filing fee, you can ask the court to waive this fee. To do this, you must fill out a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms. You can file this application either before you file your petition or with your petition. The court will review this application and decide whether to waive the filing fee.

18 What happens after I file my petition?

Within 10 days after you serve and file your petition, the respondent or any real party in interest can serve and file preliminary opposition to the petition. Within 10 days after an opposition is filed, you may serve and file a reply to that opposition.

The appellate division does not have to wait for an opposition or reply before it can act on a petition for a writ, however. Without waiting, the appellate division can:

- a. Issue a stay
- b. Summarily deny the petition
- c. Issue an alternative writ or order to show cause
- d. Notify the parties that it is considering issuing a preemptory writ in the first instance
- e. Issue a preemptory writ in the first instance if such relief was expressly requested in the petition.

Read below for more information about these options.

a. Stay of trial court proceedings

A stay is an order from the appellate division telling the trial court not to do anything more until the appellate division decides whether to grant your petition. A stay puts the trial court proceedings on temporary hold.



b. Summary denial

A “summary denial” means that the appellate division denies the petition without deciding whether the trial court made the legal error claimed by the petitioner or whether the writ requested by the petitioner should be issued based on that error. Remember, even if the trial court made a legal error, the appellate division can decide not to consider that error now but to wait and consider the error as part of any appeal from the final judgment. No reasons need to be given for a summary denial. Most petitions for writs are denied in this way.

c. Alternative writ or order to show cause

An “alternative writ” is an order telling the trial court either to do what the petitioner has requested in the petition (or some modified form of what the petitioner requested) or to show the appellate division why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner requested. An “order to show cause” is similar; it is an order telling the trial court to show the appellate division why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner requested in the petition (or some modified form of what the petitioner requested). The appellate division will issue an alternative writ or an order to show cause only if the petitioner has shown that he or she has no adequate remedy at law and the appellate division has decided that the petitioner may have shown that the trial court made a legal error that needs to be fixed.

If the appellate division issues an alternative writ and the trial court does what the petitioner requested (or a modified form of what the petitioner requested as ordered by the appellate division), then no further action by the appellate division is needed and the appellate division may dismiss the petition.

If the trial court does not comply with an alternative writ, however, or if the appellate division issues an order to show cause, then the respondent court or a real party in interest can file a response to the appellate division’s order (called a “return”) that explains why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner requested. The return must be served and filed within the time specified by the appellate division or, if no time is specified, within 30 days from the date the alternative writ or order to show cause was issued. The petitioner will then have an opportunity to serve and file a reply

within 15 days after the return is filed. The appellate division may set the matter for oral argument. When all the papers have been served and filed (or the time to serve and file them has passed) and oral argument is completed, the appellate division will decide the case.

d. Peremptory writ in the first instance

A “peremptory writ in the first instance” is an order telling the trial court to do what the petitioner has requested (or some modified form of what the petitioner requested) that is issued without the appellate division first issuing an alternative writ or order to show cause. It is very rare for the appellate division to issue a peremptory writ in the first instance, and it will not do so unless the respondent and real parties in interest have received notice that the court might do so, either through the petitioner expressly asking for such relief in the petition, or by the court first notifying the parties and giving the respondent court and any real party in interest a chance to file an opposition.

The respondent court or a real party in interest can file a response to the appellate division’s notice (called an “opposition”) that explains why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner has requested. The opposition must be served and filed within the time specified by the appellate division or, if no time is specified, within 30 days from the date the notice was issued. The petitioner will then have a chance to serve and file a reply within 15 days after the opposition is filed. The appellate division may then set the matter for oral argument. When all the papers have been served and filed (or the time to serve and file them has passed) and oral argument is completed, the appellate division will decide the case.

19 What should I do if the court denies my petition?

If the court denies your petition, it may be helpful to talk to a lawyer. In a limited civil or infraction case, you must hire a lawyer at your own expense if you want one (the court cannot provide one). You can get information about finding an attorney on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm.



INFORMATION FOR A REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

This part of the information sheet is written for a real party in interest—a party from the trial court case other than the petitioner who will be affected by a ruling on a petition for a writ. It explains some of the rules and procedures relating to responding to a petition for a writ. The information may also be helpful to the petitioner.

20 I have received a copy of a petition for a writ in a case in which I am a party. Do I need to do anything?

You do not *have* to do anything. The California Rules of Court give you the right to file a preliminary opposition to a petition for a writ within 10 days after the petition is served and filed, but you are not required to do this. The appellate division can take certain actions without waiting for any opposition, including:

- Summarily denying the petition
- Issuing an alternative writ or order to show cause
- Notifying the parties that it is considering issuing a peremptory writ in the first instance
- Issuing a peremptory writ in the first instance if such relief was expressly requested in the petition.

Read the response to question 18 for more information about these options.

Most petitions for writs are summarily denied, often within a few days after they are filed. If you have not already received something from the appellate division saying what action it is taking on the petition, it is a good idea to call the appellate division to see if the petition has been denied before you decide whether and how to respond.

This would be a good time to talk to a lawyer. You do not *have* to have a lawyer; you are allowed to represent yourself in a writ proceeding in the appellate division. But writ proceedings can be very complicated and you will have to follow the same rules that lawyers have to follow. If you have any questions about writ proceedings or about whether and how you should respond to a writ petition, you should talk to a lawyer. In a limited civil

case or infraction case, you must hire a lawyer at your own expense if you want one (the court cannot provide one). You can get information about finding an attorney on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm.

If the petition has not already been summarily denied, you may, but are not required to, serve and file a preliminary opposition to the petition within 10 days after the petition was served and filed. In general, it is a good idea to consider filing a preliminary opposition if the petition misstates the facts or if you think the petition shows that the trial court made a legal error that may need to be fixed. However, the appellate division will seldom grant a writ without first issuing an alternative writ, an order to show cause, or a notice that it is considering issuing a peremptory writ. In all these circumstances, you will get notice from the court and have a chance to file a response. Note that the appellate division may issue a peremptory writ without notice if the petitioner expressly asked the court, in the petition, to issue a peremptory writ in the first instance. If the petitioner did that, you may want to consider whether to file a preliminary opposition, to explain why you believe the small claims court made no legal error and why the petitioner is not entitled to a writ.

If you decide to file a preliminary opposition, you must serve that preliminary opposition on all the other parties to the writ proceeding. “Serving and filing” an opposition means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver (“serve”) the preliminary opposition to the other parties in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the preliminary opposition has been served. This record is called a “proof of service.” *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the preliminary opposition, who was served with the preliminary opposition, how the preliminary opposition was served (by mail or in person), and the date the preliminary opposition was served.
- File the original preliminary opposition and the proof of service with the appellate division. You



should make a copy of the preliminary opposition for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the preliminary opposition to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court documents and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.

21 I have received a copy of an alternative writ or an order to show cause issued by the appellate division. Do I need to do anything?

Yes. Unless the trial court has already done what the alternative writ told it to do, you should serve and file a response called a “return.”

As explained above, the appellate division will issue an alternative writ or an order to show cause if the appellate division has decided that the petitioner may have shown that the trial court made a legal error that needs to be fixed. An “alternative writ” is an order telling the trial court either to do what the petitioner has requested in the petition (or some modified form of what the petitioner requested) or to show the appellate division why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner requested. An “order to show cause” is similar; it is an order telling the trial court to show the appellate division why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner requested in the petition (or some modified form of what the petitioner requested).

If the appellate division issues an alternative writ and the trial court does what the petitioner requested (or a modified form of what the petitioner requested as ordered by the appellate division), then no further action by the appellate division is needed and the appellate division may dismiss the petition. If the trial court does not comply with an alternative writ, however, or if the appellate division issues an order to show cause, then the respondent court or the real party in interest may serve and file a response to the appellate division’s order, called a “return.”

A return is your argument to the appellate division about why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner has requested. If you are represented by a lawyer in the writ proceeding, your lawyer will prepare your return. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you will need to prepare your own return. A return is usually a legal response called an “answer.” An answer is used to admit or deny the facts alleged in the petition, to add to or correct the facts, and to explain any legal defenses to the legal arguments made by the petitioner. You should read California Code of Civil Procedure sections 430.10–430.80 for more information about answers. You can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml. A return can also include additional supporting documents not already filed by the petitioner.

If you do not file a return when the appellate division issues an alternative writ or order to show cause, it does not mean that the appellate division is required to issue the writ requested by the petitioner. However, the appellate division will treat the facts stated by the petitioner in the petition as true, which makes it more likely the appellate division will issue the requested writ. Unless the appellate division sets a different filing deadline in its alternative writ or order to show cause, you must serve and file your return within 30 days after the appellate division issues the alternative writ or order to show cause. The return must be served on all the other parties to the writ proceeding. “Serving and filing” the return means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver (“serve”) the return to the other parties in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the return has been served. This record is called a “proof of service.” *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the return, who was served with the return, how the return was served (by mail or in person), and the date the return was served.
- File the original return and the proof of service with the appellate division. You should make a copy of the return you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good



- idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the return to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court documents and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.

22 I have received a copy of a notice from the appellate division indicating it is considering issuing a peremptory writ in the first instance. Do I need to do anything?

Yes. You should serve and file a response called an “opposition.”

As explained in the answer to question **18**, a “peremptory writ in the first instance” is an order telling the trial court to do what the petitioner has requested (or some form of what the petitioner requested as ordered by the appellate division) that is issued without the appellate division first issuing an alternative writ or order to show cause. The appellate division will not issue a peremptory writ in the first instance without first giving the parties notice and a chance to file an opposition. However, when the appellate division issues such a notice, it means that the appellate division is strongly considering granting the writ requested by the petitioner.

An opposition is your argument to the appellate division about why the trial court should not be ordered to do what the petitioner has requested. If you are represented by a lawyer in the writ proceeding, your lawyer will prepare your opposition. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you will need to prepare your own opposition. Like a return discussed above, an opposition is usually a legal response called an “answer.” An answer is used to admit or deny the facts alleged in the petition, to add to or correct the facts, and to explain any legal defenses to the legal arguments made by the petitioner. You should read California Code of Civil Procedure sections 430.10–430.80 for more information about answers. You can get copies of these statutes at any county law library or online at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml.

Unless the appellate division sets a different deadline in its notice that it is considering issuing a peremptory writ, you must serve and file your opposition within 30 days after the appellate division issues the notice. The opposition must be served on all the other parties to the writ proceeding. “Serving and filing” the opposition means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver (“serve”) the opposition to the other parties in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the opposition has been served. This record is called a “proof of service.” *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the opposition, who was served, how the opposition was served (by mail or in person), and the date the opposition was served.
- File the original opposition and the proof of service with the appellate division. You should make a copy of the opposition you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the opposition to the clerk when you file your original, and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court documents and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.

23 What happens after I serve and file my return or opposition?

After you file a return or opposition, the petitioner has 15 days to serve and file a reply. The appellate division may also set the matter for oral argument. When all the papers have been filed (or the time to file them has passed) and oral argument is completed, the appellate division will decide the case.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):		FOR COURT USE ONLY
TELEPHONE NO.:	FAX NO.:	
ATTORNEY FOR (Name):		
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF		
STREET ADDRESS:		
MAILING ADDRESS:		
CITY AND ZIP CODE:		
BRANCH NAME:		
CASE NAME:		
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Complex Case Designation	CASE NUMBER:
<input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)	JUDGE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)		DEPT:

Items 1–6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check **one** box below for the case type that best describes this case:

<p>Auto Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22) <input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46) <p>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04) <input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45) <input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23) <p>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08) <input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13) <input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16) <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19) <input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25) <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35) <p>Employment</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36) <input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15)	<p>Contract</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06) <input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09) <input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18) <input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37) <p>Real Property</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14) <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33) <input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26) <p>Unlawful Detainer</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31) <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32) <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38) <p>Judicial Review</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05) <input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11) <input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02) <input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39)	<p>Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03) <input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10) <input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40) <input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41) <p>Enforcement of Judgment</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of judgment (20) <p>Miscellaneous Civil Complaint</p> <input type="checkbox"/> RICO (27) <input type="checkbox"/> Other complaint (<i>not specified above</i>) (42) <p>Miscellaneous Civil Petition</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and corporate governance (21) <input type="checkbox"/> Other petition (<i>not specified above</i>) (43)
---	---	---

2. This case is is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
- | | |
|--|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of separately represented parties | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of witnesses |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial amount of documentary evidence | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision |
3. Remedies sought (*check all that apply*): a. monetary b. nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c. punitive
4. Number of causes of action (*specify*):
5. This case is is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (*You may use form CM-015.*)

Date: _____

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)
(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on **all** other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you **must** complete and file, along with your first paper, the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check **one** box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the **primary** cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Auto Tort

- Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death
- Uninsured Motorist (46) (*if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto*)

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort

- Asbestos (04)
 - Asbestos Property Damage
 - Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
- Product Liability (*not asbestos or toxic/environmental*) (24)
- Medical Malpractice (45)
 - Medical Malpractice—Physicians & Surgeons
 - Other Professional Health Care Malpractice
- Other PI/PD/WD (23)
 - Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)
 - Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism)
 - Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
 - Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress
 - Other PI/PD/WD

Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

- Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07)
- Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (*not civil harassment*) (08)
- Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13)
- Fraud (16)
- Intellectual Property (19)
- Professional Negligence (25)
 - Legal Malpractice
 - Other Professional Malpractice (*not medical or legal*)
- Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

Employment

- Wrongful Termination (36)
- Other Employment (15)

Contract

- Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)
 - Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (*not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction*)
- Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller Plaintiff (*not fraud or negligence*)
- Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty
- Other Breach of Contract/Warranty
- Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09)
 - Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff
 - Other Promissory Note/Collections Case
- Insurance Coverage (*not provisionally complex*) (18)
 - Auto Subrogation
 - Other Coverage
- Other Contract (37)
 - Contractual Fraud
 - Other Contract Dispute

Real Property

- Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)
- Wrongful Eviction (33)
- Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)
 - Writ of Possession of Real Property
 - Mortgage Foreclosure
 - Quiet Title
 - Other Real Property (*not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure*)

Unlawful Detainer

- Commercial (31)
- Residential (32)
- Drugs (38) (*if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential*)

Judicial Review

- Asset Forfeiture (05)
- Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)
- Writ of Mandate (02)
 - Writ—Administrative Mandamus
 - Writ—Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter
 - Writ—Other Limited Court Case Review
- Other Judicial Review (39)
 - Review of Health Officer Order
 - Notice of Appeal—Labor Commissioner Appeals

Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court Rules 3.400–3.403)

- Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)
- Construction Defect (10)
- Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
- Securities Litigation (28)
- Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)
- Insurance Coverage Claims (*arising from provisionally complex case type listed above*) (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

- Enforcement of Judgment (20)
 - Abstract of Judgment (Out of County)
 - Confession of Judgment (*non-domestic relations*)
 - Sister State Judgment
 - Administrative Agency Award (*not unpaid taxes*)
 - Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes
 - Other Enforcement of Judgment Case

Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

- RICO (27)
- Other Complaint (*not specified above*) (42)
 - Declaratory Relief Only
 - Injunctive Relief Only (*non-harassment*)
 - Mechanics Lien
 - Other Commercial Complaint Case (*non-tort/non-complex*)
 - Other Civil Complaint (*non-tort/non-complex*)

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

- Partnership and Corporate Governance (21)
- Other Petition (*not specified above*) (43)
 - Civil Harassment
 - Workplace Violence
 - Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
 - Election Contest
 - Petition for Name Change
 - Petition for Relief From Late Claim
 - Other Civil Petition

Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor, Infraction, or Limited Civil Case)

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

Petitioner

(fill in the name of the person asking for the writ)

v.

Superior Court of California, County of _____

Respondent

(fill in the name of the court whose action or ruling you are challenging)

Real Party in Interest

(fill in the name of any other parties in the trial court case)

Clerk will fill in the number below:

Appellate Division Case Number:

Stay requested

(see item 12 c. on page 6)

Instructions

- This form is only for requesting a **writ** in a misdemeanor, infraction, or limited civil case, or a writ challenging a postjudgment enforcement order in a small claims case (see below*).
 - Do *not* use this form for other writs and for appeals. You can get forms to use for those at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms.
 - Before you fill out this form, read *Information on Writ Proceedings in Misdemeanor, Infraction, and Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-150-INFO) to know your rights and responsibilities. You can get form APP-150-INFO at any courthouse or county law library or online at www.courts.ca.gov/forms.
 - Unless a special statute sets an earlier deadline, you should file this form no later than **30 days** after the date the trial court took the action or issued the ruling you are challenging in this petition (see form APP-150-INFO, page 7, for more information about the deadline for filing a writ petition). It is your responsibility to find out if a special statute sets an earlier deadline. If your petition is filed late, the appellate division may deny it.
 - Fill out this form and make a copy of the completed form for your records and for the respondent (the trial court whose action or ruling you are challenging) and each of the real parties in interest (the other party or parties in the trial court case).
 - Serve a copy of the completed form on the respondent and on each real party in interest and keep proof of this service. *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. You can get information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.
 - Take or mail the completed form and your proof of service on the respondent and each real party in interest to the clerk's office for the appellate division of the superior court that took the action or issued the ruling you are challenging.
- * Small Claims cases. If you are a party in a small claims case, this form is only to be used for requesting a writ relating to a postjudgment enforcement order of a small claims division. For writs relating to other acts of a small claims division, the form to use is the *Petition for Writ (Small Claims)* (form SC-300). See also Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.970–8.977. For writs relating to acts of a superior court in a small claims appeal, see Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.485–8.493.



Appellate Division Case Name:	Appellate Division Case Number:
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1 Your Information

a. Petitioner (the party who is asking for the writ):

Name: _____

Street address: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing address (if different): _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail (if available): _____

b. Petitioner's lawyer (skip this if the petitioner does not have a lawyer for this petition):

Name: _____ State Bar number: _____

Street address: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing address (if different): _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail (if available): _____

Fax (if available): _____

The Trial Court Action or Ruling You Are Challenging

2 I am/My client is filing this petition to challenge an action taken or ruling made by the trial court in the following case:

a. Case name (fill in the trial court case name): _____

b. Case number (fill in the trial court case number): _____

3 The trial court action or ruling I am/my client is challenging is (describe the action taken or ruling made by the trial court): _____

4 The trial court took this action or made this ruling on the following date (fill in the date): _____

5 If you are filing this petition more than 30 days after the date that you listed in **4**, explain the extraordinary circumstances that caused the delay in filing this petition: _____



The Parties in the Trial Court Case

6 I/My client (*check and fill in a or b*):

- a. was a party in the case identified in 2.
- b. was not a party in the case identified in 2 but will be directly and negatively affected in the following way by the action taken or ruling made by the trial court (*describe how you/your client will be directly and negatively affected by the trial court's action or ruling*):

7 The other party or parties in the case identified in 2 was/were (*fill in the names of the parties*):

Appeals or Other Petitions for Writs in This Case

8 Did you or anyone else file an appeal about the same trial court action or ruling you are challenging in this petition? (*Check and fill in a or b*):

- a. No
- b. Yes (*fill in the appellate division case number of the appeal*): _____

9 Have you filed a previous petition for a writ challenging this trial court action or ruling? (*Check and fill in a or b*):

- a. No
- b. Yes (*Please provide the following information about this previous petition*).

- (1) Petition title (*fill in the title of the petition*): _____
- (2) Date petition filed (*fill in the date you filed this petition*): _____
- (3) Case number (*fill in the case number of the petition*): _____

If you/your client filed more than one previous petition, attach another page providing this information for each additional petition. At the top of each page, write "APP-151, item 9."

Reasons for This Petition

10 The trial court made the following legal error or errors when it took the action or made the ruling described in 3 (*check and fill in at least one*):

- a. The trial court has not done or has refused to do something that the law says it *must* do.

(1) *Describe what you believe the law says the trial court must do*: _____

(2) *Identify the law (the section of the Constitution or statute, published court decision, or other legal authority) that says the trial court must do this*: _____



10 (continued)

(3) Identify where in the supporting documents (the record of what was said in the trial court and the documents from the trial court) it shows that the court did not do or refused to do this:

Check here if you need more space to describe the reason for your petition and attach a separate page or pages describing it. At the top of each page, write "APP-151, item 10a."

b. The trial court has done something that the law says the court cannot or must not do.

(1) Describe what the trial court did: _____

(2) Identify where in the supporting documents (the record of what was said in the trial court and the documents from the trial court) it shows that the court did this:

(3) Identify the law (the section of the Constitution or statute, published court decision, or other legal authority) that says the trial court cannot or must not do this:

Check here if you need more space to describe the reason for your petition and attach a separate page or pages describing it. At the top of each page, write "APP-151, item 10b."

c. The trial court has performed or said it is going to perform a judicial function (like deciding a person's rights under law in a particular situation) in a way the court does not have the legal power to do.

(1) Describe what the trial court did or said it is going to do: _____

(2) Identify where in the supporting documents (the record of what was said in the trial court and the documents from the trial court) it shows that the court did or said it was going to do this:



10 (continued)

(3) Identify the law (the section of the Constitution or statute, published court decision, or other legal authority) that says the trial court does not have the power to do this:

- Check here if you need more space to describe this reason for your petition and attach a separate page or pages describing it. At the top of each page, write "APP-151, item 10c."
Check here if there are more reasons for this petition and attach an additional page or pages describing these reasons. At the top of each page, write "APP-151, item 10d."

11 This petition will be granted only if there is no other adequate way to address the trial court's action or ruling other than by issuing the requested writ.

a. Explain why there is no way other than through this petition for a writ—through an appeal, for example—for your arguments to be adequately presented to the appellate division:

b. Explain how you/your client will be irreparably harmed if the appellate division does not issue the writ you are requesting:

Order You Are Asking the Appellate Division to Make

12 I request that this court (check and fill in all that apply):

a. order the trial court to do the following (describe what, if anything, you want the trial court to be ordered to do):

b. order the trial court not to do the following (describe what, if anything, you want the trial court to be ordered NOT to do):



12 (continued)

- c. issue a stay ordering the trial court not to take any further action in this case until this court decides whether to grant or deny this petition (*describe below why it is urgent that the trial court not take any further action and check the Stay requested box on page 1 of this form*):

I/My client:

- (1) asked the trial court to stay these proceedings, but the trial court denied this request (*include in your supporting documents a copy of the trial court's order denying your request for a stay*).
- (2) did not ask the trial court to stay these proceedings for the following reasons (*describe below why you did not ask the trial court to stay these proceedings*):

- d. take other action (*describe*):

- e. grant any additional relief that the appellate division decides is fair and appropriate.

Supporting Documents

13 Is a record of what was said in the trial court about the action or ruling you are challenging attached as required by rule 8.931(b)(1)(D) of the California Rules of Court?

- a. Yes, a transcript or an official electronic recording of what was said in the trial court is attached.
- b. No, a transcript or official electronic recording is not attached, but I have attached a declaration (a statement signed under penalty of perjury) (*Check (1) or (2)*):
 - (1) stating the transcript or electronic recording has been ordered, the date it was ordered, and the date it is expected to be filed.
 - (2) explaining why the transcript or official electronic recording is not available and providing a fair summary of what was said in the trial court, including the petitioner's arguments and any statement by the trial court supporting its ruling.



GENERAL INFORMATION

What does this information sheet cover?

This information sheet tells you how to fill out *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109). This information sheet is not part of the proof of service and does not need to be copied, served, or filed.

1 What is “serving” a document?

“Serving” a document on a person means having the document delivered to that person. The general requirements for serving documents are set out in California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1011–1013a (you can get a copy of these laws at any county law library or online at www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html). There are two main ways to serve documents: (1) by mail and (2) by personal delivery.

When a document is served by mail, it must be put in a sealed envelope or package that is addressed to the person who is being served and that has the postage fully prepaid. The envelope then has to be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service by leaving it at a U.S. Postal Service office or mail drop or at an office or business mail drop where the person serving the document knows the mail is picked up every day and deposited with the U.S. Postal Service.

When a document is personally delivered to a party who is represented by an attorney, the document must either be given directly to the attorney representing that party or the document can be placed in an envelope or package addressed to the attorney and left with the receptionist at the attorney’s office or with a person who is in charge of the attorney’s office. When a document is personally served on a party who is not represented by an attorney, the document must either be given directly to the party or the document can be given to someone who is at least 18 years old at the party’s residence between the hours of eight in the morning and six in the evening.

2 What documents have to be served?

Rule 8.817 of the California Rules of Court requires that before you file any document with the court in a case in the appellate division of the superior court, you must

serve one copy of the document on each of the other parties in the case and on anyone else when required by law (statute or rule of court). Other rules require that certain documents in cases in the appellate division be served, including the notice of appeal and the notice designating the record on appeal in appeals in limited civil cases and briefs in all appeals. (For more information about appeals in general and about these documents, read *Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-101-INFO), *Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors* (form CR-131-INFO), and *Information on Appeal Procedures for Infractions* (form CR-141-INFO).)

3 Who can serve a document?

State law (the Code of Civil Procedure) says that a document in a court case can only be served by a person who is:

- Over 18 years old; and
- Not a party in the court case

If you are a party in a case, **you must have someone else who is over 18 and who is not a party in your case serve any documents in your case for you.** You will need to give the person who is serving the document for you (the server) the names and addresses of all the people who need to be served with that document. You will also need to give the server one copy of each document that needs to be served for each person who is being served.

4 What is proof of service?

A “proof of service” shows the court that a document was served as required by the law. Rule 8.817 also requires a party who is filing a document with the court in a case in the appellate division to attach a proof of service to the document he or she wants to file. You can use *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) to give the court this proof of service in any case in the appellate division of the superior court. Tell the server to follow the instructions below for completing the *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) and to give you the original form when it is filled out and signed. You will need to attach this original proof of service to the document you want to file.

INFORMATION FOR THE SERVER**5 Who fills out the *Proof of Service*?**

If you are the server (the person who serves a document for a party in a court case), you must prepare and sign the proof of service. You can use *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) to prepare this proof of service in any case in the appellate division.

6 How do I fill out the *Proof of Service*?

You can fill out most of the information on *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) by copying the information from the document you are serving before you serve that document. However, you should not sign and date the form until after you have finished serving the document. **By signing form APP-109, you are swearing, under penalty of perjury, that the information that you put in the form is true and correct.**

When you fill out the *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109), you should print neatly or use a typewriter. If you have Internet access, you can fill out the form online at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms (use the “fillable” version of the form).

Filling in the top section of form APP-109:

First box, right side of form: Leave this box blank for the court’s use.

Second box, right side of form: Fill in the name of the county in which the case is filed and the street address of the court. You can copy this information from the first page of the document that you are serving. If the document you are serving is another Judicial Council form, this information will be in the second box on the right-hand side of the form.

Third box, right side of form: Fill in the trial court case name and number. You can copy this information from the first page of the document that you are serving. If the document you are serving is another Judicial Council form, this information will be in the third box on the right-hand side of the form.

Fourth box, right side of form: Fill in the appellate division case number, if you know it. If this number is available, it will be on the first page of the document that you are serving. If the document you are serving is another Judicial Council form, this number will be in the fourth box on the right-hand side of the form.

Filling in items 1–5:

Items ① and ②: You are stating, under penalty of perjury, that you are over the age of 18 and that you are not a party in this court case.

Item ③: Check one of the boxes and provide your home or business address. This information is important because, if you serve the document by mail, you must live or work in the county from which the document was mailed.

Item ④: Check or fill in the name of the document that you are serving. If the document you are serving is another Judicial Council form, the name of the document is located on both the top and the bottom of the first page of the form. If the document you are serving is not a Judicial Council form, the name of the document should be on the top of the first page of the document.

a. Check box 4a. if you are serving the document by mail. **BEFORE YOU SEAL AND MAIL THE ENVELOPE WITH THE DOCUMENT YOU ARE SERVING, fill in the following parts of the form.**

- (1) You are stating, under penalty of perjury, that you are putting one copy of the document you identified in item 4 in an envelope addressed to each person listed in 4a.(2), sealing the envelope, and putting first-class postage on the envelope.
- (2) Fill in the name and address of each person to whom you are mailing the document. You can copy this information from the list of people to be served or the envelopes provided by the party for whom you are serving the document. If you need more space to list names and addresses, check the box under item 4a.(2) and attach a page listing them. At the top of the page, write “APP-109, Item 4a.”



(3) Fill in the date you are mailing the document and the city and state from which you are mailing it. **REMEMBER:** You must live or work in the county from which the document is mailed.

(a) Check box 4a.(3)(a) if you are personally depositing the document with the U.S. Postal Service, such as at a U.S. Post Office or U.S. Postal Service mailbox.

(b) Check box 4a.(3)(b) if you are putting the document in the mail at your place of business.

Once you have finished filling out these parts of the form, make one copy of *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) with this information filled in for each person you are serving by mail. Put this copy of *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) in the envelope with the document you are serving. Seal the envelope and mail it as you have indicated on the *Proof of Service*.

b. Check box 4b. If you personally delivered the documents. Remember, when a document is personally delivered to a party who is represented by an attorney, the document must either be given directly to the party's attorney or the document can be placed in an envelope or package addressed to the attorney and left with the receptionist at the attorney's office or with a person who is in charge of the attorney's office. When a document is personally served on a party who is not represented by an attorney, the document must either be given directly to the party or the document can be given to someone who is at least 18 years old at the party's residence between the hours of eight in the morning and six in the evening.

For each person to whom you personally delivered the document, fill in:

(a) The person's name.

(b) The address at which you delivered the document to this person.

(c) The date on which you delivered the document to this person.

(d) The time at which you delivered the document.

If you need space to list more names, addresses, and delivery dates and times, check the box under 4b. and attach a page listing this information. At the top of the page, write "APP-109, Item 4b."

Item : At the bottom of the form, type or print your name, sign the form, and fill in the date that you signed the form. **By signing this form, you are stating under penalty of perjury that all the information you filled in on *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) is true and correct.**

After you have finished serving the document and filled in, signed, and dated *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109), give the original completed form to the party for whom you served the document.

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

Instructions

- This form is only for providing proof that a document has been served (delivered) in a proceeding in the superior court appellate division.
- The person who serves (delivers) a document in this case and who fills out this form:
 - Must be at least 18 years old
 - Must NOT be a party in this case
- Before you fill out this form, read *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) to understand your responsibilities.

You fill in the name and street address of the court that issued the decision that is being challenged in this case:

Superior Court of California, County of

① At the time I served the documents listed in ④, I was at least 18 years old.

② I am not a party in the case identified in the box on the right side of this page.

You fill in the number and name of the trial court case in which the decision being challenged was issued:

③ My home business address is:

Street City State Zip

Trial Court Case Number:

Trial Court Case Name:

④ I mailed or personally delivered the following document, as indicated below (check or fill in the name of the document you are serving and check and complete either a or b).

You fill in the appellate division case number (if you know it):

Appellate Division Case Number:

- Notice of Appeal/Cross Appeal (Limited Civil Case)
- Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)
- Proposed Statement on Appeal (Limited Civil Case Misdemeanor Infraction)
- Appellant's Opening Brief
- Respondent's Brief
- Appellant's Reply Brief
- Abandonment of Appeal (Limited Civil Case)
- Petition for Writ (Misdemeanor, Infraction, or Limited Civil Case)
- Other (write in the name of the document):

a. Service by Mail

- (1) I put one copy of the document identified in ④ in an envelope addressed to each person listed in (2), sealed the envelope, and put first-class postage on the envelope.



Appellate Division Case Name: _____

(2) The envelope or envelopes were addressed as follows:

(a) Name of person served: _____

Address on envelope: _____
Street City State Zip

(b) Name of person served: _____

Address on envelope: _____
Street City State Zip

Check here if you mailed copies of the document identified in (4) to more people. Attach a separate page listing the names and addresses on each additional envelope you mailed. Write "APP-109, Item 4a" on the top of the page.

(3) I mailed the envelope or envelopes on (date): _____ from (city, state): _____
by depositing the envelope or envelopes (check one):

(a) With the U.S. Postal Service or

(b) At an office or business mail drop where I know the mail is picked up every day and deposited with the U.S. Postal Service.

b. Service by Personal Delivery

I personally gave one copy of the document identified in (4) to each of the following people:

(1) (a) Name of person served: _____

(b) Address where you gave the documents to this person: _____
Street
City State Zip

(c) Date when you gave the documents to this person: _____

(d) Time when you gave the documents to this person: _____

(2) (a) Name of person served: _____

(b) Address where you gave the documents to this person: _____
Street
City State Zip

(c) Date when you gave the documents to this person: _____

(d) Time when you gave the documents to this person: _____

Check here if you gave copies of the document identified in (4) to more people. Attach a separate page listing the names of each of these people, the address where you gave each of them the document, and the date and time you gave them the document. Write "APP-109, Item 4b" on the top of the page.

(5) I declare under penalty of perjury under California state law that the information above is true and correct.

Date: _____

Type or print server's name

Server signs here after serving