

Frequently Asked Questions

Appellate Redistricting Effective January 1, 2022

As of January 1, 2022, judicial redistricting will take effect in Illinois that will impact appellate districts per [Public Act 102-0011](#). You can read more about the Court's [Order](#) and [press release](#). Please see below for frequently asked questions about how the new appellate district boundaries might impact your appeal. If you need additional information, please [contact](#) the appellate clerk's office in your district for further details.

Where can I find a map of the new appellate districts?

You can review a map of the newly created appellate districts [here](#). Please note, the First Appellate District (Cook County) was not impacted by redistricting and it remains the same. All other appellate districts have been affected.

What counties are now assigned to each appellate district?

- **First District** – Cook
- **Second District** – DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry
- **Third District** – Bureau, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Will
- **Fourth District** – Adams, Boone, Brown, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Ford, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Knox, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macoupin, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Morgan, Ogle, Peoria, Pike, Putnam, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Warren, Whiteside, Winnebago, and Woodford
- **Fifth District** – Alexander, Bond, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Macon, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Montgomery, Moultrie, Perry, Piatt, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Shelby, St. Clair, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, and Williamson

If you prefer to look at this information by judicial circuit, you can sort by the 24 circuits [here](#).

In general, in civil cases, documents must be e-filed with the court, so you do not need to travel to your local appellate courthouse to file them. To register for e-filing, visit the Court's [website](#).

If you file a proper certificate for an e-filing exemption, you can mail your documents to the appellate court in your district. You can find appellate clerks' contact information and mailing addresses [here](#).

If you have oral argument scheduled for your case and wish to appear by video conference (e.g., via Zoom), you may file a motion asking that the argument be conducted remotely.

Where do I need to file my notice of appeal?

File your notice of appeal with the circuit court in which the judgment or order was issued. The circuit court clerk will then transmit your notice of appeal to the correct appellate district. You will then be notified of your appellate court case number by the appellate court.

My circuit is now part of a new appellate district. If my appeal was filed before redistricting and is currently pending, which district will now decide my case?

Your appeal will be decided by the district that is already assigned to your case. You should continue filing any documents into your existing appellate court case number.

Where should I file a motion for leave to file a late notice of appeal, petition for leave to appeal to the appellate court under Rule 306, or application for leave to appeal to the appellate court under Rule 308?

If you are filing on or after January 1, 2022, you must file in your new appellate district. This applies even if the judgment or order you are appealing or are seeking to appeal was issued by the circuit court or administrative agency before redistricting took effect.

My circuit was affected by redistricting. If there is a conflict in binding authority among appellate districts, which decision is now binding on the circuit court hearing my case?

Circuit courts remain subject to the rule that, when conflicts arise among the districts, the circuit court is bound by the decisions of the appellate court of the district in which it sits. *Aleckson v. Village of Round Lake Park*, 176 Ill. 2d 82, 92 (1997). In a redistricted circuit, the appropriate appellate district is the district in which the circuit was located at the time that the circuit court action was initiated.

I appealed a case in one appellate district and now I have a subsequent appeal for that same case. Which district will hear the subsequent appeal and how will the court treat the initial decision?

If a case is heard by one appellate district on appeal and if a subsequent appeal in that case is heard by a new appellate district, the new district will treat the decision of the prior district as the law of the case. The fact that the decision of the prior district applied the law of the prior district, which is contrary to the law of the new district, will not be a basis for departing from the decision of the prior district.