

**Proposal 21-04**  
**Amends Supreme Court Rules 23 (Disposition of Cases in the Appellate Court)**  
**and 361 (Motions in Reviewing Court)**  
**Offered by the Appellate Lawyers' Association**

**Rule 23. Disposition of Cases in the Appellate Court**

The decision of the Appellate Court may be expressed in one of the following forms: a full opinion, a concise written order, or a summary order conforming to the provisions of this rule. All dispositive opinions and orders shall contain the names of the judges who rendered the opinion or order.

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**(c) Summary Order.** In any case in which the panel unanimously determines that any one or more of the following dispositive circumstances exist, the decision of the court may be made by summary order. A summary order may be utilized when:

- (1) the Appellate Court lacks jurisdiction;
- (2) the disposition of the case, or the resolution of issues involving a criminal or juvenile sentence is clearly controlled by case law precedent, statute, or rules of court;
- (3) the appeal is moot;
- (4) the issues involve no more than an application of well-settled rules to recurring fact situations;
- (5) the opinion or findings of fact and conclusions of law of the trial court or agency adequately explain the decision;
- (6) no error of law appears on the record;
- (7) the trial court or agency did not abuse its discretion; or
- (8) the record does not demonstrate that the decision of the trier of fact is against the manifest weight of the evidence.

When a summary order is issued it shall contain:

- (i) a statement describing the nature of the case and the dispositive issues without a discussion of the facts;
- (ii) a citation to controlling precedent, if any; and
- (iii) the judgment of the court and a citation to one or more of the criteria under this rule which supports the judgment, *e.g.*, “Affirmed in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 23(c)(1).”

The court may dispose of a case by summary order at any time after the case is docketed in the Appellate Court. The disposition may provide for dismissal, affirmance, remand, reversal or any combination thereof as appropriate to the case. The Appellate Court may enter a partial summary order addressing a sentencing error and may later dispose of the remaining issue or issues raised on appeal. A summary order may be entered after a dispositive issue has been fully briefed, or if the issue has been raised by motion of a party or by the court, *sua sponte*, after expiration of the time for filing a response to the motion or rule to show cause issued by the court.

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### **Rule 361. Motions in Reviewing Court**

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**(b) Filing; Proposed Order; Responses.** The motion shall be served, presented, and filed as follows:

(1) The motion, together with proof of service, shall be filed with the clerk. See Rule 11 regarding manner of serving documents and Rule 12 regarding proof of service. Service and filing will be excused only in case of necessity.

(2) A proposed order phrased in the alternative (*e.g.*, “Allowed” or “Denied”) shall be submitted with each motion and shall be served upon all counsel of record. No motion shall be accepted by the clerk unless accompanied by such a proposed order.

(3) Responses to a motion shall be in writing and be filed, with proof of service, within ~~5~~ 7 days after personal or e-mail service of the motion, or 10 days after mailing of the motion if service is by mail, or 10 days after delivery to a third-party commercial carrier if service is by delivery to a third-party commercial carrier, or within such further time as the court or a judge thereof may allow. Except by order of court, replies to responses will not be allowed and oral arguments on motions will not be heard.

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