

Worksheet for Grounds (Reasons) to Appeal a Municipal Court's Final Judgment

Don't Delay! You only have 30 days to file your completed Notice of Appeal. Your 30-day deadline starts the day after entry of the judgment or order you're appealing.

File your completed Notice of Appeal with the municipal court clerk.

Before you start this Worksheet, make sure you have the following:

- 1) a copy of each municipal ordinance you were charged with;**
- 2) a copy of the final judgment of conviction or order deferring imposition of your sentence;**
- 3) a copy of the electronic recording of the municipal court hearing(s); and**
- 4) all notes you took during the hearing(s) (*don't file your notes when you file your Notice of Appeal with the municipal court clerk*).**

If you're a defendant in a municipal court case and you disagree with the municipal court judge's final judgment of conviction or order deferring imposition of sentence in your case, you may appeal to a North Dakota state district court judge.

An appeal isn't a do-over with a brand new hearing. An appeal is your written argument showing how the municipal court judge's decisions in the final judgment or order were wrong. You make your arguments based on the evidence and facts heard and decided during the municipal court process.

Use this worksheet to research and identify the specific legal mistakes that were made in your case. These are called the legal grounds (reasons) for your appeal. Common grounds (reasons) for appeal include whether the judge followed the municipal ordinance(s) that apply to your case, mistakes the judge made admitting or not admitting evidence, and whether the admitted evidence was enough to prove you violated the ordinance(s). Go to ndcourts.gov/legal-self-help/how-to-research-your-legal-issue for more research information.

Moral or ethical wrongs may not be enough to show legal mistakes.

When you're finished with this worksheet, create your **Notice of Appeal document**. You need at least one ground (reason), and can have more than one. If you have more than four grounds (reasons) for appeal, add more pages to this worksheet.

Your Notice of Appeal document must include all of your grounds (reasons). Otherwise, you won't be able to argue the ground (reason) you didn't include at a later time.

First Ground (Reason) for Appeal: *(List the **specific legal mistake(s)** for your first ground for appeal. List your support for the first ground, including specific part(s) of the ordinance(s), evidence that was admitted, evidence that wasn't admitted but should have been, how the judge didn't follow the ordinance(s), etc. Make note of where in the municipal court record (page number, paragraph number, timestamp of recording) to find your support.)*

Second Ground (Reason) for Appeal: *(List the **specific legal mistake(s)** for your second ground for appeal. List your support for the second ground, including specific part(s) of the ordinance(s), evidence that was admitted, evidence that wasn't admitted but should have been, how the judge didn't follow the ordinance(s), etc. Make note of where in the municipal court record (page number, paragraph number, timestamp of recording) to find your support.)*

Third Ground (Reason) for Appeal: *(List the **specific legal mistake(s)** for your third ground for appeal. List your support for the third ground, including specific part(s) of the ordinance(s), evidence that was admitted, evidence that wasn't admitted but should have been, how the judge didn't follow the ordinance(s), etc. Make note of where in the municipal court record (page number, paragraph number, timestamp of recording) to find your support.)*

Fourth Ground (Reason) for Appeal: *(List the **specific legal mistake(s)** for your fourth ground for appeal. List your support for the fourth ground, including specific part(s) of the ordinance(s), evidence that was admitted, evidence that wasn't admitted but should have been, how the judge didn't follow the ordinance(s), etc. Make note of where in the municipal court record (page number, paragraph number, timestamp of recording) to find your support.)*

Fifth Ground (Reason) for Appeal: *(List the **specific legal mistake(s)** for your fifth ground for appeal. List your support for the fifth ground, including specific part(s) of the ordinance(s), evidence that was admitted, evidence that wasn't admitted but should have been, how the judge didn't follow the ordinance(s), etc. Make note of where in the municipal court record (page number, paragraph number, timestamp of recording) to find your support.)*