



ARKANSAS JUDICIARY

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Rule 4-4. Filing And Service Of Briefs In Civil Cases.

(a) Electronic Filing. Briefs shall be filed using the electronic filing system provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Parties filing electronically shall provide six paper copies of the brief to the Clerk within five days of the filing date. Any person proceeding pro se and any person with a disability or special need that prevents him or her from filing electronically shall be permitted to submit conventional paper filings. Parties filings conventionally shall provide six paper copies of the brief at the time of filing.

(b) Appellant's brief. In all civil cases the appellant shall, within 40 days of lodging the record, file the appellant's brief with the Clerk and furnish evidence of service upon opposing counsel and the circuit court. Each copy of the appellant's brief shall contain every item required by Rule 4-2. Unemployment compensation cases appealed from the Arkansas Board of Review may be submitted to the Court of Appeals for decision as soon as the transcript is filed, unless the petition for review shows it is filed by an attorney, or notice of intent to file a brief for the appellant is filed with the Clerk prior to the filing of the transcript.

When a party has determined that confidential information is necessary and relevant to the appellate court's consideration of the case, redaction shall be done pursuant to Rule 4-1(d), and the party shall file one redacted copy and six unredacted copies of the appellant's brief. The unredacted copies shall be filed under seal. The cover of each brief shall indicate clearly whether it is REDACTED or UNREDACTED.

(c) Appellee's brief? Cross-appellant's brief. The appellee shall file the appellee's brief, and any further abstract or addendum thought necessary, within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed, and furnish evidence of service upon opposing counsel and the circuit court. If the appellee's brief has a supplemental abstract or addendum, it shall be compiled in accordance with Rule 4-2 and included in or with each copy of the brief. This rule shall apply to cross-appellants. If the cross-appellant is also the appellee, the two separate arguments may be contained in one brief, but each argument is limited to 30 pages.

When a party has determined that confidential information is necessary and relevant to the appellate court's consideration of the case, redaction shall be done pursuant to Rule 4-1(d), and the party shall file one redacted copy and six unredacted copies of the appellant's brief or cross-appellant's brief. The unredacted copies shall be filed under seal. The cover of each brief shall indicate clearly whether it is REDACTED or UNREDACTED.

(d) Reply brief?Cross-appellant's reply brief. The appellant may file a reply brief within fifteen days after the appellee's brief is filed and shall furnish evidence of service upon opposing counsel and the circuit court. This rule shall apply to the cross-appellant's reply brief except it must be filed within fifteen days after the cross-appellee's brief is filed.

When a party has determined that confidential information is necessary and relevant to the appellate court's consideration of the case, redaction shall be done pursuant to Rule 4-1(d), and the party shall file one redacted copy and six unredacted copies of the reply brief or cross-appellant's reply brief. The unredacted copies shall be filed under seal. The cover of each brief shall indicate clearly whether it is REDACTED or UNREDACTED.

(e) Evidence of service. Briefs tendered to the Clerk will not be filed unless evidence of service upon opposing counsel and the circuit court has been furnished to the Clerk. Such evidence may be in the form of a letter signed by counsel, naming the attorney or attorneys and the circuit court to whom copies of the brief have been mailed or delivered.

(f) Submission. The case shall be subject to call on the next Thursday (in the Supreme Court) or Wednesday (in the Court of Appeals) after the expiration of the time allowed for filing the reply brief of the appellant or the cross-appellant. After the case has been submitted to the court for decision, the court will not consider motions to dismiss because of settlement or notice of settlement.

(g) Continuances and extensions of time.

(1) The Clerk or a deputy clerk may extend the due date of any brief by seven (7) calendar days upon oral or electronically filed request. The party requesting a Clerk's extension must confirm the extension by sending a letter immediately to the Clerk or the deputy clerk with a copy to all counsel of record and any pro se party. If such an extension is granted, no further extension shall be granted except by the Clerk for compliance with these Rules as provided in Rule 4-2(c) or by the Court upon a written motion showing good cause.

(2) Stipulations of counsel for continuances will not be recognized. Any request for an extension of time (except in (g)(1)) for the filing of any brief must be made by a written motion, addressed to the Court, setting forth the facts supporting the request. Counsel who delay the filing of such a motion until it is too late for the brief to be filed if the motion is denied, do so at their own risk.

Comment Text:

Addition to Reporter's Notes, 2014 Amendment: Rules 4-1 and 4-4 both required the filing on appeal of nine copies of redacted briefs and nine copies of unredacted briefs, for a total of eighteen copies. However, only one copy of the redacted brief need be filed?for public viewing?while 17 copies of the unredacted briefs should be filed for use by the courts and court personnel. Rules 4-1 and 4-4 are amended accordingly. The appellate court practice has been that after a case has been submitted to the court for decision, the court will not consider motions to dismiss because of settlement of the litigation or notice of settlement. The amendment to Rule 4-4(e) conforms the rule to the practice.

History Text:

Amended March 13, 2014, effective July 1, 2014; amended December 7, 2017, effective

January 1, 2018.

Associated Court Rules:

Rules of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals of the State of Arkansas

Group Title:

Article IV. Briefs

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