

# United States Court of Appeals

Eleventh Circuit  
56 Forsyth Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

David J. Smith  
Clerk of Court

[www.ca11.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov)

Amy C. Nerenberg  
Chief Deputy Clerk

August 5, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

Enclosed are proposed amendments to the Rules of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Text to be deleted is lined-through.

Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to me at the above address, or electronically at <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/rules/proposed-revisions>, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on September 4, 2020.

David J. Smith

UNITED STATES  
COURT OF APPEALS  
for the  
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ELEVENTH CIRCUIT RULES  
AND INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

- FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE
- ELEVENTH CIRCUIT RULES
- *INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURES*

August 2020

## FRAP 42. Voluntary Dismissal

- (a) **Dismissal in the District Court.** Before an appeal has been docketed by the circuit clerk, the district court may dismiss the appeal on the filing of a stipulation signed by all parties or on the appellant's motion with notice to all parties.
- (b) **Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.** The circuit clerk may dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any fees that are due. But no mandate or other process may issue without a court order. An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant's motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

(As amended Apr. 24, 1998, eff. Dec. 1, 1998.)

\* \* \* \*

### 11th Cir. R. 42-1 Dismissal of Appeals.

(a) Motions to Dismiss by Appellants or Petitioners and Joint Motions to Dismiss. If an appellant or petitioner files an unopposed motion to dismiss an appeal, petition, or agency proceeding, or if both parties file a joint motion to dismiss an appeal, petition, or agency proceeding, and the matter has not yet been assigned to a panel on the merits, the clerk may clerically dismiss the appeal, petition, or agency proceeding and in such circumstances will issue a copy of the order as and for the mandate. By issuing such a dismissal, the clerk expresses no opinion on the effect of that dismissal. If the appeal, petition, or agency proceeding has been assigned to a panel on the merits, any motion to dismiss will be submitted to that panel.

A joint motion to dismiss must be signed by counsel for each party encompassed by the motion, or by the party itself if proceeding pro se. All motions to dismiss must contain a Certificate of Interested Persons and Corporate Disclosure Statement in compliance with FRAP 26.1 and the accompanying circuit rules. If an appellant's or petitioner's motion to dismiss is opposed, it will be submitted to the court. For motions to dismiss criminal appeals, see also 11th Cir. R. 27-1(a)(7) and 27-1(a)(8).

(b) Dismissal for Failure to Prosecute. Except as otherwise provided for briefs and appendices in civil appeals in 11th Cir. R. 42-2 and 42-3, when appellant fails to file a brief or other required papers within the time permitted, or otherwise fails to comply with the applicable rules, the clerk shall issue a notice to counsel, or to pro se appellant, that upon expiration of 14 days from the date thereof the appeal will be dismissed for want of prosecution if the default has not been remedied by filing the brief or other required papers and a motion to file documents out of time. Within that 14-day notice period a party in default must seek leave of the court, by appropriate motion, to file documents out of time or otherwise remedy the default. Failure to timely file such motion will result in dismissal for want of prosecution.

The clerk shall not dismiss an appeal during the pendency of a timely filed motion for an extension of time to file appellant's brief or appendix, but if the court denies such leave after the expiration of the due date for filing the brief or appendix, the clerk shall dismiss the appeal

forthwith. The clerk shall not dismiss an appeal during the pendency of a timely filed motion to file documents out of time or otherwise remedy the default which is accompanied by the brief or other required papers, but if the court denies such leave the clerk shall dismiss the appeal forthwith.

If an appellant is represented by appointed counsel, the clerk may refer the matter to the Chief Judge for consideration of possible disciplinary action against counsel in lieu of dismissal.

11th Cir. R. 42-2 Dismissal in a Civil Appeal for Appellant's Failure to File Brief or Appendix by Due Date.

(a) Applicability of Rule. The provisions of this rule apply to all civil appeals, including Tax Court appeals, bankruptcy appeals, appeals in cases brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 and 2255, review of agency orders, and petitions for extraordinary writs when briefing has been ordered, but not including appeals of orders revoking supervised release or of orders entered pursuant to Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or 18 U.S.C. § 3582.

(b) Notice of Due Date for Filing Brief and Appendix. Eleventh Circuit Rules 30-1(c) and 31-1 establish the due dates for filing the brief and appendix. To facilitate compliance, the clerk will send counsel and pro se parties a notice confirming the due date for filing appellant's brief and appendix consistent with 11th Cir. R. 30-1(c) and 31-1. However, delay in or failure to receive such notice does not affect the obligation of counsel and pro se parties to file the brief and appendix within the time permitted by the rules.

(c) Dismissal Without Further Notice. When an appellant has failed to file the brief or appendix by the due date as established by 11th Cir. R. 30-1(c) and 31-1 and set forth in the clerk's notice, or, if the due date has been extended by the court, within the time so extended, an appeal shall be treated as dismissed for failure to prosecute on the first business day following the due date. The clerk thereafter will enter an order dismissing the appeal ~~and mail a copy of that order to counsel and pro se parties.~~ If an appellant is represented by appointed counsel, the clerk may refer the matter to the Chief Judge for consideration of possible disciplinary action against counsel in lieu of dismissal.

(d) Effect of Pending Motion to Extend Time. The clerk shall not dismiss an appeal during the pendency of a timely filed motion for an extension of time to file appellant's brief or appendix, but if the court denies such leave after the expiration of the due date for filing the brief or appendix, the clerk shall dismiss the appeal.

(e) Motion to Set Aside Dismissal and Remedy Default. An appeal dismissed pursuant to this rule may be reinstated only upon the timely filing of a motion to set aside the dismissal and remedy the default showing extraordinary circumstances, accompanied by the required brief or appendix. Such a motion showing extraordinary circumstances, accompanied by the required brief or appendix, must be filed within 14 days of the date the clerk enters the order dismissing the appeal. The timely filing of such a motion, accompanied by the required brief or appendix, and a showing of extraordinary circumstances, is the exclusive method of seeking to set aside a dismissal entered pursuant to this rule. An untimely filed motion to set aside dismissal and remedy default must be denied unless the motion demonstrates extraordinary circumstances justifying the delay in filing the motion, and no further filings shall be accepted by the clerk in that dismissed appeal. The time to file a responsive

brief runs from the date the court's order granting a motion to set aside dismissal and remedy default is entered on the docket.

(f) Failure of Appellee to File Brief by Due Date. When an appellee fails to file a brief by the due date as established by 11th Cir. R. 31-1, or, if the due date has been extended by the court, within the time so extended, the appeal will be submitted to the court for decision without further delay, and the appellee will not be heard at oral argument (if oral argument is scheduled to be heard) unless otherwise ordered by the court.

11th Cir. R. 42-3 Dismissal in a Civil Appeal for Appellant's Failure to Correct a Deficiency in Briefs or Appendices Within 14 Days of Notice.

(a) Applicability of Rule. The provisions of this rule apply to all civil appeals, including Tax Court appeals, bankruptcy appeals, appeals in cases brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 and 2255, review of agency orders, and petitions for extraordinary writs when briefing has been ordered, but not including appeals of orders revoking supervised release or of orders entered pursuant to Rule 35 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or 18 U.S.C. § 3582.

(b) Notice to Correct a Deficiency in Briefs or Appendices. If briefs or appendices do not comply with the rules governing the form of briefs and appendices, the clerk will send counsel and pro se parties a notice specifying the matters requiring correction. A complete corrected set of replacement briefs or appendices must be filed in the office of the clerk within 14 days of the date of the clerk's notice.

(c) Dismissal Without Further Notice. When an appellant has failed to correct the brief or appendix within 14 days of the clerk's notice, or, if the due date has been extended by the court, within the time so extended, an appeal shall be treated as dismissed for failure to prosecute on the first business day following the due date. The clerk thereafter will enter an order dismissing the appeal ~~and mail a copy of that order to counsel and pro se parties.~~ If an appellant is represented by appointed counsel, the clerk may refer the matter to the Chief Judge for consideration of possible disciplinary action against counsel in lieu of dismissal.

(d) Effect of Pending Motion to Extend Time. The clerk shall not dismiss an appeal during the pendency of a timely filed motion for an extension of time to correct a deficiency in appellant's brief or appendix, but if the court denies such leave after the expiration of the due date for correcting a deficiency in the brief or appendix, the clerk shall dismiss the appeal.

(e) Motion to Set Aside Dismissal and Remedy Default. An appeal dismissed pursuant to this rule may be reinstated only upon the filing of a motion to set aside the dismissal and remedy the default showing extraordinary circumstances, accompanied by the required corrected brief or appendix. Such a motion showing extraordinary circumstances, accompanied by the required corrected brief or appendix, must be filed within 14 days of the date the clerk enters the order dismissing the appeal. The timely filing of such a motion, accompanied by the required corrected brief or appendix, and a showing of extraordinary circumstances, is the exclusive method of seeking to set aside a dismissal entered pursuant to this rule. An untimely filed motion to set aside dismissal and remedy default must be denied unless the motion demonstrates extraordinary circumstances justifying the delay in filing the motion, and no further filings shall be accepted by the clerk in that dismissed appeal. The

time to file a responsive brief runs from the date the court's order granting a motion to set aside dismissal and remedy default is entered on the docket.

(f) Failure of Appellee to File Corrected Brief Within 14 Days of Notice. When an appellee fails to file a corrected brief within 14 days of the clerk's notice, or, if that date has been extended by the court, within the time so extended, the appeal will be submitted to the court for decision without further delay, and the appellee will not be heard at oral argument (if oral argument is scheduled to be heard) unless otherwise ordered by the court.

11th Cir. R. 42-4 Frivolous Appeals. If it shall appear to the court at any time that an appeal is frivolous and entirely without merit, the appeal may be dismissed.

\* \* \* \*

*I.O.P. - Dismissal Rules Apply to Principal Briefs. The rules that provide for dismissal of an appeal for appellant's failure to file a brief by the due date, or to correct deficiencies in a brief within 14 days of notice, apply to appellant's or cross-appellant's principal (first) brief only, unless the court orders otherwise.*

Cross-Reference: FRAP 3, 38; 28 U.S.C. § 1927