

## What does a sentence appeal mean?

- A sentence appeal means that the convicted person in your case has lodged an appeal against his/her sentence. They are saying that the original sentence was too severe.
- The Appeals Section in the Office of the DPP will be dealing with this case.
- Even though a convicted person who is in prison can apply for bail while waiting for the appeal, bail is rarely granted. If bail is granted, it is only in exceptional circumstances.
- When all of the paperwork is completed by the convicted person's legal team, they can apply for a hearing date.
- The Appeal Court judges will read the written record (the transcripts) of all the evidence from the original court, so that they can understand what happened at the trial.

## What to expect at the court hearing

- There is no need for you to attend the appeal hearing, but you can attend if you want to.
- The investigating Garda will keep you informed about the appeal.
- The investigating Garda can arrange a meeting with the prosecuting counsel and solicitor before the appeal hearing if you so wish.
- The appeal will be heard by three judges sitting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal) which usually sits in the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin.
- On the hearing date the three judges will hear legal submissions from both the prosecution and the defence teams.
- It is extremely rare that any witnesses will be called to give evidence at this hearing.
- If the judges need more time to consider the case, they will reconvene on another date to give their decision.
- The judges may decide the original sentence was correct and so they will not make any change to the sentence.
- On the other hand, the judges may decide that the original sentence was not correct and so they may decrease or adjust the sentence.

## Who to contact if you have further queries

- If you have any further queries, please contact the investigating Garda who will pass any queries on to the Office of the DPP.