

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.