

Court of Appeals

STATE OF COLORADO
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November 13, 2025

Court of Appeals Policy on Citations Adopted pursuant to C.A.R. 28(e)

The citation formats provided in this policy promote readability and assist the court in reviewing the parties' briefs and the record. Citations to legal authority and the record should be in the formats set forth in this policy. Parties are not permitted to remove spaces, underline spaces, or otherwise manipulate citations, formatting, or spacing to purposefully lower the word count. Citations without spacing or with underlining are difficult to read and decipher. Failure to follow this policy may lead to the party's brief being struck.

Legal Authorities

Parties may, but are not required to, use the public domain citation format described in Chief Justice Directive 12-01 for Colorado cases announced on or after January 1, 2012. The following examples are used for illustrative purposes only:

Cases – primary citation:

Jones v. Smith, 2012 COA 35

Smith v. Jones, 2012 CO 22

Jones v. Smith, 867 P.2d 309 (Colo. App. 1988)

Smith v. Jones, 867 P.2d 321 (Colo. 1988)

Cases – primary citation with pinpoint citation:

Jones v. Smith, 2012 COA 35, ¶¶ 44-45

Smith v. Jones, 2012 CO 22, ¶ 13

Jones v. Smith, 867 P.2d 309, 311 (Colo. App. 1988)

Smith v. Jones, 867 P.2d 321, 325 (Colo. 1988)

Cases – subsequent citation with pinpoint citation:

Jones, ¶¶ 40-41

Id. at ¶ 40

Smith, ¶¶ 13-14

Jones, 867 P.3d at 311

Id. at 311

Smith, 867 P.3d at 325

Colorado Court Rules and Statutes:

§ 13-1-902, C.R.S. 2025*

Civil: C.R.C.P. 1(c)

Criminal: Crim. P. 16(I)(d)(1)

Evidence: CRE 1102

Appellate: C.A.R. 58

Probate: C.R.P.P. 1(b)

Magistrates: C.R.M. 7

Municipal Court: C.M.C.R. 260

Professional Conduct: Colo. RPC 9

Judicial Conduct: C.J.C. 7(B)(1)

Juvenile: C.R.J.P. 1

ICWA: C.R. ICWA P. 1

Colorado Jury Instructions:

CJI-Civ. 22:2 (2025)

COLJI-Crim. 5-3:03 (2024)

For legal authorities not covered by this policy, parties are encouraged to consult the most recent edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. In the event of a conflict between this policy and *The Bluebook*, this policy controls.

Records

For records transmitted to the court of appeals under C.A.R. 10(c), the following citation formats should be followed. In general, reference should be made by first identifying the electronic folder and then referencing the pdf page number.

Court File (containing the public and suppressed documents from the referring court): CF, p.# or CF, pp.#-#

Examples:

CF, pp.240-242

CF, pp.240-242, 340-341

CF, p.240

Transcripts: TR-DATE, p.# or p.#:line number (line number if less than a page)**

Examples:

TR-5/29/25, pp.240-242

TR-5/29/25, p.240:11-18

TR-5/29/25(a.m.), pp.240-242

TR-5/29/25, pp.240-242, 420-421; TR-5/30/25, p.140

Exhibits (electronic file): EX, p.#

Example: EX, pp.12-13

Exhibits (physical file): Env, Ex-#. If multiple envelopes with physical exhibits exist, the envelope number should follow Env.

Examples:

Env, Ex-A

Env, Ex-12

Env2, Ex-55

Sealed Items: Seal. should be placed in front of the type of record.

Examples:

Seal.CF, pp.12-13

Seal.TR-5/29/25, pp.240-242, 244-245

Supplemental Records: Supp. should be placed in front of the type of record. If multiple supplemental records were filed, Supp. and the volume number should be placed in front of the record.

Examples:

Supp.CF, pp.240-242

Supp2.CF, pp.140-142

Supp.TR-5/29/25, pp.240-242, 244-245, 255-256

*The year in C.R.S. and jury instruction citations should be to the current version, unless citation to an older version is intentional. The years listed herein are to the current versions at the time this policy was adopted.

**Line numbers are not required for transcript citations of a page or more.