**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**APPEALS COURT**

**Docket Number: {{ docket\_number }}**

**{{ users[0] }}**

**v.**

**{{ other\_parties[0] }}**

**On Appeal From** **{{ trial\_court }}**

**Informal Appellant Brief of {{ users[0] }}**

Date: {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

Your name: {{ users[0] }}

Your pronouns (optional): {{ users[0].pronouns }}

Your address: {{ users[0].address.on\_one\_line }}

Your phone number: {{ users[0].phone\_number }}

Your email address: {{users[0].email }}

# Issues ON APPEAL

{{ appeal\_issues }}

# Case HISTORY

This case was filed in {{ trial\_court }} on {{ filed\_date }}.

Judge {{ judge\_name }} issued the decision on {{ decision\_date }}.

The following decisions/orders are challenged:

{{ challenged\_judgments }}

# Statement of the Facts

{{ appeal\_facts }}

# Argument

{{ appeal\_arguments }}

**CONCLUSION/RELIEF REQUESTED**

{{ appeal\_conclusion }}

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ {{ users[0].signature }}

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date: {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

# Certificate of Service

I certify that on {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

I served a complete copy of this {{served\_informal\_brief}} Informal Appellant Brief, {{ served\_record\_appendix }} Record Appendix, {{ served\_impounded\_appendix }} Impounded Appendix [choose all that apply] on all parties, by sending it to the person(s) listed below using the email address(es) or physical mailing address(es) shown:

Name of other party or parties or their lawyer(s) who you served:

{{ other\_parties[0] }}

The email or physical mailing address(es) you sent the documents to:

{{ other\_parties[0].address.on\_one\_line }}

{{ other\_parties[0].email }}

/s/ {{ users[0].signature }}

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date: {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

**FILING**

You can file this brief electronically with the Appeals Court by converting and saving this Word document to a PDF. To save as a PDF, please go to "File" and select "Save as Adobe PDF." Then, enter the appropriate file name for the PDF (e.g., Informal Appellant Brief) and select the folder where you wish to save this document. Lastly, press the "Save" button at the bottom to complete saving. An informal brief may be electronically served and filed by creating an account at <https://massachusetts.tylertech.cloud/OfsWeb>.

Alternatively, an original paper copy may be mailed to the Appeals Court, Clerk's Office, 1 Pemberton Square, Room 1200, Boston, MA, 02108, and a copy served on each party. To print a copy of this Word document, please go to "File" and select "Print." Then, choose the correct printer and customize your print settings (e.g., number of copies). Lastly, press the "Print" button, with the printer icon, to complete printing.

**If filing by mail, complete this:**

**Certificate of Mailing, Mass. R. A. P. 13 (a) (1) (B)**

Pursuant to Mass. R. A. P. 13 (a) (1) (B), I certify that on the following date, {{ users[0].signature\_date }}, which is a date on or before when this brief is due to be filed in the Appeals Court, I sent it by first-class mail or its equivalent to the Appeals Court.

/s/ {{ users[0].signature }}

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date: {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

**For A Self-Represented Party Who is Confined**

**in a State or Federal Institution:**

**Certificate of Mailing and Filing,**

**Mass. R. A. P. 13 (a) (1) (B) and 13 (a) (2)**

Pursuant to Mass. R. A. P. 13 (a) (1) (B) and 13 (a) (2), I certify that I am a self-represented party, am currently confined in a State or Federal institution, and that on the following date, {{ users[0].signature\_date }}, which is a date on or before when the brief is due to be filed in the Appeals Court, I deposited this brief in the institution's internal mail system for mailing to the Appeals Court.

/s/ {{ users[0].signature }}

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date: {{ users[0].signature\_date }}

# Record Appendix [FiLED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT]

If you are the appealing party, your informal brief must be accompanied by a separate document called the record appendix. The record appendix contains copies of all the documents filed in or created by the lower court or agency that are not impounded and are relevant to the Appeals Court's review of the issues raised on appeal, including copies of all documents you have referenced in your informal brief. A record appendix template is provided as part of this pilot program. Please note that there is a **special procedure for filing impounded information** that is described below and in section (d) (4) of the Informal Brief Guidance.

Examples of documents to include in the record appendix include the trial court docket sheet; the order(s), ruling(s), or judgment(s) that you challenge, including any findings of fact, memorandum of decision, or jury verdict slips; relevant exhibits filed in the lower court or agency; relevant motions, memoranda, pleadings, or other documents filed by the party filing the informal brief or the other party or parties to the case; and the notice(s) of appeal.

The record appendix must have consecutive page numbers, with the cover being page one, and include a table of contents that lists each document by its title and the page where it begins. If there is more than one volume of record appendix, each volume must be numbered (example, vol. 1, vol. 2). The page numbers for each volume of appendix should restart, with the cover page being page one. A copy of each volume of the record appendix must be served on each party in the case, with the service identified in your certificate of service.

If this is a civil case, then you, the appealing party, are responsible for giving the Appeals Court transcripts of any hearings that are relevant to the appeal. If this is a criminal case, the transcripts will be provided directly to the Appeals Court if you ordered them. Transcripts can be included in the record appendix as a numbered volume, or they may be filed separately as they are. The Appeals Court may decline to consider arguments in an informal brief that are not supported by evidence in the record appendix or transcript(s).

**Please note that only materials that were presented to the lower court or agency may be included in the record appendix**. If you wish to include materials that were not presented to the lower court or agency, you must file a motion in the Appeals Court seeking permission to do so. (Such motions are usually denied because the Appeals Court reviews the judge's decision based only on the information that was before the judge.)

The appellee (party responding to an appeal) can also file a record appendix with the appellee brief. If they do, the appellee's record appendix will be called the "supplemental appendix." You may file a reply brief in response to the appellee brief and supplemental appendix, but you may not file another appendix.

**Special procedure for filing impounded information.** In addition to information that is automatically impounded or confidential under a law or court rule, such as the names of children or victims of certain crimes or financial statements in a divorce or child support case, any information or document that was impounded in the trial court continues to be impounded in the Appeals Court. **You are responsible for finding out which if any such laws or rules apply in your case**.

Documents containing **impounded information must be filed in a separate record appendix volume** whose cover states it "Contains Impounded Material." Like your regular record appendix, this impounded volume of appendix must have consecutive page numbers, with the cover page being page one, and must have a table of contents listing each document along with the page where it begins. A template is provided as part of this pilot program.

Documents that are not impounded but appear in an appendix and contain confidential or personal identifying information (PII) must be "redacted," which means **the confidential information and PII is blacked out so it cannot be seen**. Examples of PII are Social Security numbers, taxpayer identification numbers, driver's license numbers, State-issued ID card numbers, passport numbers, financial account numbers, and credit or debit card numbers.