COURT OF APPEAL
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Court of Appeal

Practice Directive (Civil & Criminal)

Title: Citation of Authorities

Issued: August 24, 2026

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Cite as: *Citation of Authorities* (Civil & Criminal Practice Directive, 8 September 2026)

In an effort to advance access to justice, the Court of Appeal has adopted the Canadian Open Access Legal Citation Guide ("COAL") as its preferred method for legal citation.

Parties preparing factums, written arguments, memoranda of law, or any written submissions to the Court of Appeal are requested to comply with the guidance in COAL for all forms of legal citation. The guide is open access and available for free online (2024 CanLIIDocs 830).

Recommended citation practices and style practices for filings with the Court are attached as Appendix A to this Practice Directive.

Chief Justice Marchand
Court of Appeal for British Columbia

History

Replaces the Civil and Criminal Practice Directive titled *Citation of Authorities* dated 18 July 2022, which replaced previous versions dated 30 May 2013, 19 September, 2011, and 18 June 2007.

Appendix A

In addition to the guidance in COAL, the following citation and style practices also apply to filings in the Court of Appeal.

Recommended Citation Practices

1. Do not cite case summaries or headnotes. They do not form part of the judgment.

2. Only add the name of the judge at the end of the citation when relevant.

   ✓ *Green v Red* (1986), 1 BCLR (2d) 212 (CA), Purple J.A., dissenting

3. It is not necessary to give the full citation to the rules of the various courts in British Columbia. The following citations are acceptable:

   ✓ *Supreme Court Civil Rules,* R 15-1
   ✓ *Supreme Court Family Rules,* R 15-1
   ✓ *Court of Appeal Rules,* R 5
   ✓ *British Columbia Court of Appeal Criminal Appeal Rules, 1986,* R 5

Recommended Style Practices

4. Plain language is preferred. Avoid overly formal language, such as "this Honourable Court," "heretofore," "aforesaid," or "learned". Only use Latin phrases if necessary.

5. Do not capitalize the names of documents, the titles of pleadings, or the status of litigation parties unless required in a Form.

   ✓ "The appellant's notice of civil claim states a power of attorney…"
   x "The Appellant's Notice of Civil Claim states a Power of Attorney…"

6. Capitalize "court" only when referring to a specific court:

   ✓ "The British Columbia Supreme Court held in *Green* that …"
   ✓ "The Court in *Green* …"
   ✓ "The case before this Court is about …"
   x "No Courts have yet adopted…"

7. Capitalize "judge" or "justice" only when naming a particular judge or justice.

   ✓ "Justice Smith wrote in *Green v Red* that..."
   ✓ "The trial judge…"
   x "The Chambers Judge …"