

## EXPLANATION

Research for this text is inclusive of cases through May 1, 2024, legislation through the 2024 regular session of the Alabama Legislature, and amendments to the Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure through May 1, 2024. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to the Code of Alabama are to the 1975 edition.

Useful Web sites can be found at

- [www.alacourt.gov](http://www.alacourt.gov),
- <http://eforms.alacourt.gov>,
- <http://alisdb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLogin.asp>, and
- <https://judicial.alabama.gov/rules/index>.

Alabama courts use an electronic filing system. All practitioners should watch for electronic filing updates, both statewide and locally. Each attorney or party filing electronically must register online at <http://efile.alacourt.gov>.

A new appellate court electronic filing and case management system developed by Thomson Reuters Court Management Solutions went into effect in March 2022. Attorneys must create an account in C-Track and file documents electronically with the Supreme Court of Alabama, the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. The appellate courts will no longer accept e-filed documents through ACIS, but the ACIS homepage will provide a link to the C-Track registration page.

The Alabama appellate courts have entered the final phase of implementation of C-Track. Beginning March 28, 2023, attorneys will see a change to the login screen for C-Track E-File. The first-time attorneys visit the C-Track E-File log-in screen on or after March 28, 2023, they will be required to create an account that will give them access to the C-Track Public Portal once it is available. Even if attorneys have registered with C-Track before March 28, 2023, they will be required to create new accounts. C-Track Public Portal will allow attorneys online access to view documents filed in the appellate courts. After attorneys create their accounts, they will be directed to the normal E-file landing page. It is important to log-in to E-file to create one's Public Portal account before the Public Portal application

becomes available to the Alabama Bar. The Public Portal has a tentative release date of late spring 2023. If attorneys do not have a Public Portal account before Public Portal becomes available, they will be required to contact the Alabama Appellate Courts' Help Desk to create an account, which will delay their access to Public Portal.

For those using Westlaw, it should be noted that there are now artificial intelligence ("AI") enhancements for research purposes found in Westlaw Edge.

To save space and keep this form book in a single-volume presentation, we have eliminated case captions and signature blocks where possible and refer users to a standard case caption and signature block at the end of Chapter 1.