

**§6008. Appeal**

**1. Right to appeal.** Either party may appeal on questions of law from a judgment to the Superior Court as in other civil actions. Either party may appeal on any issue triable by right by a jury to a trial de novo in the Superior Court as provided in this section. The time for filing an appeal of the judgment of the District Court expires upon the issuance of the writ of possession pursuant to section 6005 or 30 days from the time the judgment is entered, whichever occurs first.  
[PL 1997, c. 336, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Appeal by defendant; record; stay.** When the defendant appeals, the defendant shall pay to the plaintiff or, if there is a dispute about the rent, to the District Court, any unpaid portion of the current month's rent or the rent arrearage, whichever is less. The District Court shall promptly transmit the record and any such payments to the Superior Court without waiting for the preparation of a transcript of recorded testimony. The Superior Court may stay the issuance of a writ of possession pending disposition of the appeal.

A. The Superior Court shall condition the granting and continuation of the stay on the defendant's payment of rent for the premises as required by this subsection at the time of appeal and on payment of any rent that has accrued since the filing of the appeal to the plaintiff or, if there is a dispute about the rent, into an escrow account to be administered by the clerk of the Superior Court. Upon application of either party, the Superior Court may authorize payments from the escrow account for appropriate expenses related to the premises. The appeal decision or an agreement of the parties must provide for the disposition of the escrowed rent. [PL 1997, c. 336, §2 (AMD).]

B. The Superior Court may condition the granting and continuation of the stay, in appropriate cases, on the defendant's agreement to refrain from causing any nuisance or damage. [PL 1995, c. 448, §2 (NEW).]  
[PL 1997, c. 336, §2 (AMD).]

**3. Vacation of stay; security; remedial order.** Upon finding a violation of the conditions for granting the stay, the Superior Court shall vacate the stay and may issue a writ of possession. The Superior Court may require the plaintiff to provide security as may be necessary to protect the defendant's interest while the appeal is pending. If the defendant prevails, the Superior Court may issue a remedial order as necessary to make the defendant whole, including damages.  
[PL 1995, c. 448, §2 (NEW).]

**4. Claim of title.** In disputes involving a claim of title, the District Court may provide for discovery on an expedited schedule.  
[PL 1995, c. 448, §2 (NEW).]

**5. Security.** For the purposes of this section, "security" may include a bond, an escrow account, a lien, a mortgage, an order to make payments under a lease or contract as they become due or any other financial protection as is reasonably necessary to protect the interests of a party. The District Court and the Superior Court may make any necessary orders with respect to the provision of security, revise the orders when required by the interests of justice, sanction a party for failure to comply with a security requirement and waive or modify the requirement of security for good cause shown and recited in an order.  
[PL 1995, c. 448, §2 (NEW).]

**6. Affidavit required.** A notice of appeal filed by the defendant must be accompanied by an affidavit stating the defendant has complied with the requirements of subsection 2 regarding the payment of rent.  
[PL 2011, c. 405, §3 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1979, c. 172, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 377 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 448, §2 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 336, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 405, §3 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.