

NEW YORK STATE CRIMINAL COURTS

Appellate Courts

Court of Appeals

New York State's highest court, hears appeals from the 4 Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court

Appellate Divisions

There are Appellate Divisions in each of the 4 Judicial Departments. Each hears appeals from judgments or orders of the Supreme Court, Family Court, Appellate Terms and County Courts.

Appellate Terms

Located in the 1st and 2nd Judicial Departments. In the 1st Department, the court hears appeals from criminal cases that started in the NYC Criminal Courts. In the 2nd Department, the court also hears appeals from criminal cases that started in District, City, Town and Village Courts.

County Courts

Hears appeals from cases that started in the City, Town and Village Courts (except in the 1st and 2nd Judicial Departments).

Trial Courts – Felony Cases

Supreme Court

Located in every county, its Criminal Term handles felony cases, but criminal felony cases outside New York City are generally handled in the County Courts. Court may have a Youth Part to handle felony cases against adolescent offenders and juvenile offenders.

County Courts

Located in every county outside New York City, can handle all crimes committed within the county where located. But, mostly handle only felony matters. Court may have a Youth Part to handle felony cases against adolescent offenders and juvenile offenders.

Trial Courts – Misdemeanor and Violations

NYC Criminal Courts

Handle misdemeanors and minor offenses committed in New York City. Also handle start of felony cases, after which the case is transferred to the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court.

City Courts

Handle all Penal Law and City Code misdemeanors and minor offenses committed in the city. Also handle arraignments, the start of felony cases, and Vehicle and Traffic law misdemeanors.

District Courts

Only located in Nassau County and western Suffolk County. Handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses. Also, handle arraignments, the start of felony cases, and Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors and Traffic infractions.

Town and Village Courts

Handle the prosecution of misdemeanors and violations committed in the town or village. Also, conduct arraignments, the start of felony cases, and Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors and Traffic infractions.

Learn More about [Criminal Cases](#).