

Glossary

Courts

State

CC – Circuit Court (Trial Court)

FSC – Florida Supreme Court

Federal

USDC – United States District Court

USCA – United States Court of Appeals

USSC – United States Supreme Court

Appeal Types

Direct Appeal – The initial appeal in which both the conviction and sentence are reviewed (FSC)

Habeas – Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus / Petition for Extraordinary Relief (state and federal court)

Habeas Appeal – Appeal of the lower court's Habeas Corpus denial (state and federal court)

3.203 – 3.203 Motion Determination of Mental Retardation (trial court)

3.850/3.851 – 3.850/3.851 Motion Postconviction Relief (trial court)

3.852 – 3.852 Motion Capital Postconviction Public Records Production (trial court)

3.853 – 3.853 Motion Postconviction DNA Testing (trial court)

3.203/3.850/3.851/3.852/3.853 *Appeal* – Appeal of the trial court's ruling on a 3.203/3.850/3.851/3.852/3.853 motion (FSC)

Cert./ Certiorari – Petition for Writ of Certiorari (USSC)

Action

COA – Certificate of Appealability: required for a Habeas Appeal to the USCA, but if the USDC refuses to issue a COA, that also can be appealed to the USCA.

CMC – Case Management Conference

EH – Evidentiary hearing

Huff – Huff Hearing: determining the need for additional hearings.

Nelson – Nelson Hearing: investigating allegations of attorney incompetence by defendant.

SC – Status Conference

Spencer – Spencer Hearing: presenting additional evidence to judge prior to sentencing.

Briefs

FSC Direct Appeal Briefs

Initial Brief – filed by the inmate, listing all issues raised on appeal.

Answer Brief – filed by the State, in response to the inmate's Initial Brief.

Reply Brief – filed by the inmate, in response to the State's Answer Brief.

FSC 3.850/3.851/3.853 Appeal Briefs

Initial Brief – filed by the inmate or State, listing all issues raised on appeal.

Answer Brief – filed by the inmate or State, in response to the Initial Brief.

Reply Brief – filed by the inmate or State, in response to the Answer Brief.

FSC Habeas Briefs

Petition – filed by the inmate, listing all issues raised in the Habeas Petition.

Response – filed by the State, in response to the inmate's Petition.

Reply – filed by the inmate, in response to the Response Brief