

# Michigan Appellate Case Brief Template

For Use in Criminal Appeals · Sentencing Challenges · Constitutional Claims

A Clutch Justice Resource | [clutchjustice.com](http://clutchjustice.com) | Rita Williams, Investigative Analyst

## SECTION 1 — CASE IDENTIFICATION

### Case Name

*People v. [Last Name]*

### Docket Number

*Court docket number*

### Trial Court

*e.g., 56B District Court, Barry County*

### Trial Court Judge

*Name of sentencing judge*

### Appellate Court

*Michigan Court of Appeals / Supreme Court*

### Date of Decision / Remand

*MM/DD/YYYY*

## SECTION 2 — PROCEDURAL HISTORY

### Original Charge(s) and Plea

*What was charged, how defendant pled, and whether a plea agreement existed*

### Sentencing Date and Outcome

*Date sentenced, guidelines range, sentence imposed, any departure*

### Appellate History

*List each filing in sequence: date filed, court, result*

## SECTION 3 — ISSUES PRESENTED ON APPEAL

*Frame each issue as a yes/no question. Courts prefer narrow, precise questions over broad allegations.*

### Issue 1

### Issue 2

### Issue 3

## SECTION 4 — CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY GROUNDS

Identify each provision you are invoking and its relevance to your specific claims.

Constitutional / Statutory Provision	Relevance to This Case

## SECTION 5 — PRESERVED ERRORS AND RECORD CITATIONS

Appellate courts only review preserved errors. Identify exactly where each objection appears in the record.

Issue #	Where Preserved (Transcript / Filing / Motion)	Page / Date

## SECTION 6 — ARGUMENT SUMMARY

Summarize each argument in 2–3 sentences. Focus on legal standard, not facts. Courts respond to clarity, not volume.

### Argument 1

### Argument 2

### Argument 3

## SECTION 7 — KEY CASES CITED

Cite cases that support each argument. Michigan appellate courts expect precise citation to binding precedent.

Case Name and Citation	Proposition It Supports

## SECTION 8 — RELIEF REQUESTED

Be specific. Common forms: remand for resentencing, remand for evidentiary hearing, reversal, dismissal.

## SECTION 9 — RECORD INTEGRITY NOTES

Document discrepancies, missing filings, altered timestamps, or proof-of-service irregularities. These are data points.

Discrepancy / Issue Observed	Document or Filing Affected	Date Identified

## ADDITIONAL NOTES / OBSERVATIONS