

Sample Criminal Appeal in Russia: English Translation

This file contains an English translation of two Russian templates: a short appeal (page 2) that can be filed in the first days to protect the 15-day deadline, and a full appeal with detailed grounds (page 3).

Criminal proceedings in Russia are conducted in Russian, so this translation cannot be filed with the court. Use it to understand the document; the appeal itself must be filed in Russian, and the Russian original can be downloaded from the same page.

Comments on each part of the appeal and common mistakes: advokat-peterburg.com/en/sample-criminal-appeal-in-russia/

Prepared by advocate Olga Sverchkova, reflecting Russian law as of 14 October 2026. General information only, not individual legal advice.

To [name of the appellate court]
via [name of the court that delivered the
verdict]
from the convicted person [full name],
born [date of birth],
held at [name of the pre-trial detention
centre] / residing at: [address]
criminal case No. [case number]

APPEAL

against the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment]

By the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment], I was found guilty of an offence under [part, article] of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and sentenced to [type and length of sentence].

I disagree with the judgment and consider it unlawful, unfounded and unjust. Detailed grounds will be set out in a supplementary appeal after I receive a copy of the judgment and review the record and audio recording of the trial.

On the basis of the above and in accordance with Articles 389.1, 389.3, 389.4 and 389.6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,

I REQUEST:

1. That the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment] in criminal case No. [case number] be set aside (changed).
2. That I be given access to the record and audio recording of the trial and to the case file.
3. That my participation in the appellate hearing be ensured, including by video link.

[Date]

[Signature] / [Surname and initials]

To [name of the appellate court]
via [name of the court that delivered the
verdict]
from [the convicted person (full name) /
defence counsel, advocate (full name),
registry number, on behalf of the
convicted person (full name)]
address for correspondence: [address],
telephone: [telephone]
criminal case No. [case number]

APPEAL

against the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment]

By the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment], [full name of the convicted person] was found guilty of an offence under [part, article] of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and sentenced to [type and length of sentence, type of penal institution]. The preventive measure was [set as detention / left unchanged].

I consider that the judgment should be [set aside / changed] on the grounds provided for in Article 389.15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the following reasons.

1. The court's conclusions do not correspond to the facts of the case (Article 389.15(1), Article 389.16). [State which conclusion of the court is not supported by the evidence, which evidence examined at trial contradicts it (with reference to the volume and page of the case file or the trial record) and why the court could not have reached that conclusion.]

2. Material breach of criminal procedure law (Article 389.15(2), Article 389.17). [State the specific breach, for example the refusal of a defence application without reasons, the use of inadmissible evidence or a violation of the right to a defence, and explain how it affected the lawfulness of the judgment.]

3. Incorrect application of criminal law (Article 389.15(3), Article 389.18). [State why the offence was classified incorrectly, which provision should have been applied and how this changes the outcome.]

4. Unjust sentence due to its excessive severity (Article 389.15(4), Article 389.18(2)). [List the mitigating circumstances and personal details that the court ignored or treated as a formality, and explain why a different sentence would have complied with the law.]

[If you are asking the court to examine evidence that was not examined at first instance, list it and explain why it could not have been submitted earlier for reasons beyond your control (Article 389.13(6.1)).]

On the basis of the above and in accordance with Articles 389.1, 389.3, 389.6, 389.15 and 389.20 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,

I REQUEST:

1. [That the judgment of [name of court] dated [date of judgment] be set aside and an acquittal be delivered / that the criminal case be terminated on the ground provided for in [point, part, article] of the Code of Criminal Procedure / that the judgment be changed by reclassifying the offence under [article] of the Criminal Code and reducing the sentence.]
2. [That the following evidence be examined at the hearing: list.]
3. That the appeal be heard with the participation of the convicted person [and defence counsel].

Attachments:

1. [Advocate's warrant, if the appeal is filed by defence counsel.]
2. [Documents supporting the grounds of appeal, with the number of pages.]

[Date]

[Signature] / [Surname and initials]