

Appeals and Innocence Claims

Criminal Justice

How a conviction is challenged after trial, and why late claims are hard.

Appeal works from the record; it is not a second trial.

1

The record

Appeal proceeds on the trial record, not on a fresh hearing.

2

Permission

Most systems require leave before an appeal can proceed.

3

Grounds

Legal error, procedural unfairness, or an unsafe verdict.

4

Fresh evidence

Admitted only where it could not reasonably have been called.

5

Review body

Some systems have a commission to refer suspect cases back.

Educational reference. Finality is weighted heavily, so late innocence claims face procedural as well as evidential barriers.