

LENGTH LIMITS FOR COMMON APPELLATE DOCUMENTS

Document	Rule(s)	Word Count*
Criminal brief in Court of Appeal	8.360(b)	25,500
Juvenile brief in Court of Appeal	8.412(a)(3), 8.360(b)	25,500
Petition for rehearing	8.268(b)(3), 8.204(c)**	14,000
Petition for review	8.504(d)	8,400
Answer	8.504(d)	8,400
Reply	8.504(d)	4,200
Habeas corpus petition (non-capital)***	8.384	No limit
Memorandum (P's and A's) accompanying petition	8.384(c)(2), 8.204(c)	14,000
Return and traverse	8.386(c)(1) & (d)(2), 8.204(c)	14,000
Petition for writ of mandate, prohibition, certiorari	8.486(a)(6), 8.204(c)	14,000

* The tables required under rule 8.204(a)(1), the cover information required under rule 8.204(b)(10), any Certificate of Interested Entities or Persons, a certificate of word count, a signature block, and any attachment permitted under rule 8.204(d) are excluded from the count. For a writ petition, the verification and supporting documents are also excluded.

** The length of a petition for rehearing is not specified by rule 8.268, but that rule does say the petition must comply with "the relevant provisions of rule 8.204."

*** Rule 8.384(a) says a petition must comply with rule 8.204(a) & (b), but does not mention 8.204(c) on length. 8.384(c)(2) does refer to 8.204(c) as a length limit on an accompanying memorandum. The implication is that the rule intentionally imposed no limits on a petition. Contact ADI if a court clerk or opposing counsel tries to apply a different interpretation.