

The Court Structure in Northern Ireland

The Supreme Court

Final Court of Appeal on points of law for the United Kingdom in civil cases.
Final Court of Appeal on points of law for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in criminal cases.

The Court of Appeal

Deals with appeals in civil cases from the High Court and with appeals in criminal cases from the Crown Court. Hears appeals on points of law from the county courts and the magistrates' courts.

The High Court

Hears complex or important civil cases in three divisions and also appeals from county courts.

- King's Bench Division
- Chancery Division
- Family Division

County Courts

(including family care centres)
Hear a wide range of civil actions and also appeals from magistrates' courts.

Small Claims Courts

Hear consumer claims and minor civil cases.

Coroners' Courts

Investigate the circumstances of sudden, violent or unnatural deaths.

The Crown Court

Hears all serious criminal cases.

Magistrates' Courts

(including youth courts and family proceedings courts)
Conduct preliminary hearings in more serious criminal cases.
Hear and determine less serious criminal cases, cases involving youths and some civil and domestic cases, including family proceedings.

The Enforcement of Judgments Office

Enforces money and other judgments.