

[Home](#) > ... > [Taking Legal Action](#) > [Legal Systems - EU and National](#) > [National Justice Systems](#) > France

# National justice systems

Content provided by:

France

France



This section provides an overview of the organisation of the courts.

## Organisation of the courts - ordinary courts and administrative courts

### The structure of the courts

#### Ordinary courts

##### 1. First instance:

###### Civil courts

- General court (*tribunal judiciaire*)
- Specialised civil courts (employment tribunal (*conseil de prud'hommes*), commercial court (*tribunal de commerce*), etc.)

###### Criminal courts

- Police court (*tribunal de police*), dealing with minor offences (*contraventions*)
- Criminal court (*tribunal correctionnel*), dealing with intermediate offences (*délits*)
- Assize court (*cour d'assises*), dealing with serious offences (*crimes*)

##### 2. Second instance: Courts of appeal (*cours d'appel*)

##### 3. Court of Cassation (*Cour de cassation*)

#### Administrative courts

##### 1. First instance

- Administrative court (*tribunal administratif*)
- Specialised administrative courts (financial courts, such as the regional auditors' office (*chambre régionale des comptes*), social welfare courts (*juridictions d'aide sociale*), professional disciplinary courts (*juridictions disciplinaires*)

##### 2. Second instance:

- Administrative courts of appeal (*cours administratives d'appel*)
- Specialised administrative courts of appeal (*juridictions administratives d'appel spécialisées*), such as the Court of Auditors (*Cour des comptes*) or the Central Commission for Social Welfare (*Commission centrale d'aide sociale*)

##### 3. Council of State (*Conseil d'Etat*)

More information can be found on the [Council of State website](#).

## Legal databases

Access to legal databases in France is provided via the Internet as a public service. The [Légifrance](#) site covers:

- [judgments of the Court of Cassation and the courts of appeal](#) (« CASS », « INCA » and « CAPP »databases)
- [decisions of the Council of State](#)
- [decisions of the administrative courts of appeal](#)
- [decisions of some administrative courts](#) (in the « JADE » database).

## Is access to these databases free of charge?

Access to these databases is free of charge.

### Related links

[Finding competent court](#)

[Organisation of the courts - France](#)

---

■ Last update: 19/04/2023

The national language version of this page is maintained by the respective Member State. The translations have been done by the European Commission service. Possible changes introduced in the original by the competent national authority may not be yet reflected in the translations. The European Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to any information or data contained or referred to in this document. Please refer to the legal notice to see copyright rules for the Member State responsible for this page.