


Ordinary courts - Slovakia

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This section provides information on the organisation of ordinary courts in Slovakia


Ordinary courts – introduction

District courts (*okresné súdy*) act as **courts of first instance** in **civil** and **criminal** cases, unless otherwise stipulated by rules governing court procedure. They also hear electoral cases where stipulated by a specific law.

Regional courts (*krajské súdy*) act as **courts of second instance** in civil and criminal cases heard by district courts at first instance. Regional courts act as courts of first instance in administrative cases, unless otherwise stipulated by a specific law. Regional courts also hear other cases if required by specific laws (e.g. the Act on protection against the interception of communications).

The Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic (*Najvyšší súd Slovenskej republiky*) acts and rules on **ordinary remedies** against regional court and Special Criminal Court decisions where the law so provides.

The Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic also acts and rules on extraordinary remedies against district court, regional court, Special Criminal Court and Supreme Court decisions where the law so provides. The Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic resolves conflicts of jurisdiction *in rem* between courts and bodies of public administration.

 [The Supreme Court](#) of the Slovak Republic can also transfer a case to a court other than the competent court where stipulated by law and by the rules governing court procedure.

Legal databases

You can find further information on the website of the  [Slovak Ministry of Justice](#).

Organisation of ordinary courts

The Slovak judiciary

The Slovak judiciary comprises:

- district courts,
- regional courts,
- the Special Criminal Court,
- the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic.

Jurisdiction of courts

District courts

District courts act as courts of first instance in civil and criminal cases unless otherwise stipulated by rules governing court procedure.

District courts also hear electoral cases where stipulated by a specific law.

Regional courts

Regional courts act as courts of second instance in civil and criminal cases heard by district courts at first instance.

Rules governing court procedure specify the civil and criminal cases in which regional courts act as courts of first instance.

Regional courts act as courts of first instance in administrative cases unless otherwise stipulated by a specific law.

Regional courts also hear other cases if required by specific laws (Act No 166/2003 on the protection of privacy against unauthorised use of information technology and amending certain other laws).

The Special Criminal Court

The Special Criminal Court hears criminal cases and other cases as laid down by the rules governing court procedure.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court acts and rules on:

- ordinary remedies against regional court and Special Criminal Court decisions where the rules governing court procedure so stipulate,
- extraordinary remedies against district court, regional court, Special Criminal Court and Supreme Court decisions where the rules governing court procedure so stipulate,
- conflicts of jurisdiction *in rem* between courts and bodies of public administration,
- transfers of cases to a court other than the competent court where rules governing court procedure so stipulate,
- other cases where the law or an international treaty so stipulate.

The Supreme Court conducts **judicial review** in cases where a final judgment has been rendered.

The Supreme Court also promotes the **uniform interpretation and consistent application of laws** and other legislation of general application by way of

- its own decision-making,
- adopting opinions aimed at unifying the interpretation of laws and other legislation of general application,
- publishing final court decisions of primary importance in the 'collection of opinions of the Supreme Court and decisions of the courts of the Slovak Republic'.

Related links

 [Ministry of Justice](#)

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