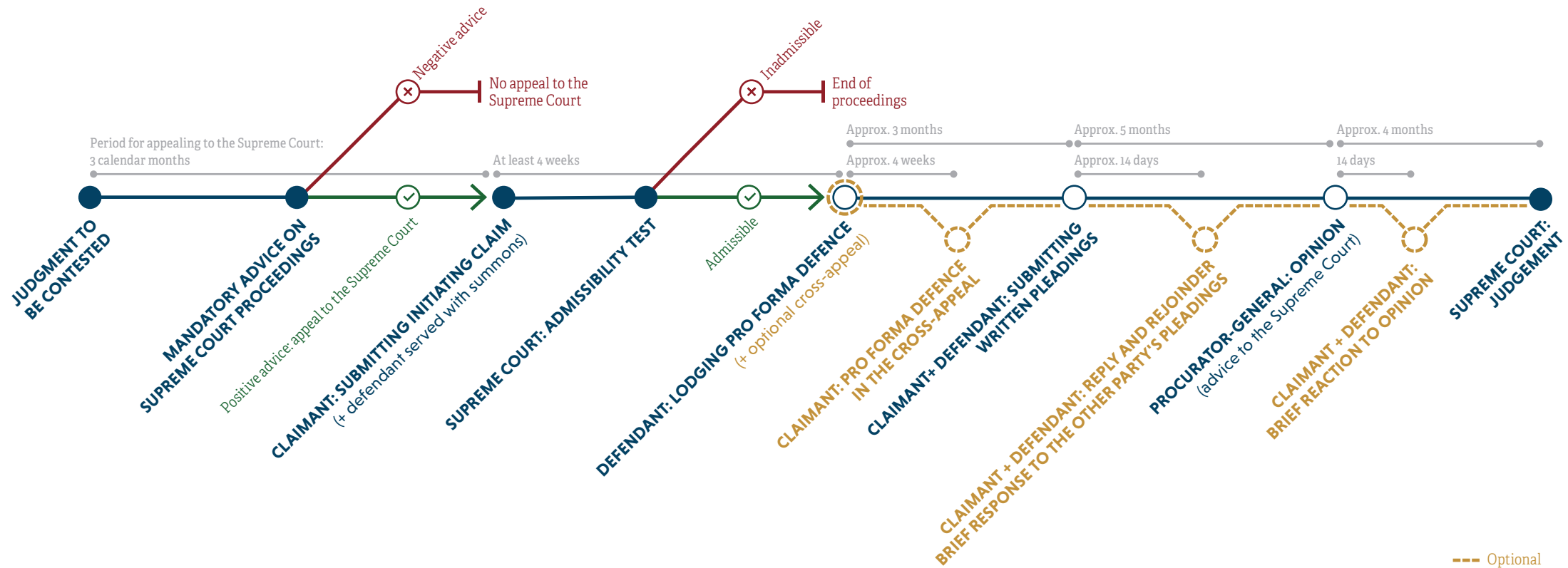


STANDARD ADVERSARIAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

Approx. 1 to 1.5 years



APPEAL PERIOD Used for seeking advice on appealing to the Supreme Court. There is a different period for preliminary relief proceedings and of many special proceedings.

NEGATIVE ADVICE Houthoff will not bring an appeal to the Supreme Court.

APPEAL An appeal to the Supreme Court is lodged by submitting an initiating claim via the portal 'my Supreme Court case'.

INADMISSIBLE Exceptionally rare application of Art. 80a of the Judiciary Organisation Act: end of proceedings.

ADMISSIBLE Procedure continues.

LODGING A STATEMENT OF DEFENCE A pro forma statement, which does not yet have to include a substantive defence, but must include grounds for cross-appeal, if applicable.

PLEADINGS Given simultaneously by both parties, normally in writing. The claimant argues its appeal to the Supreme Court and the defendant argues its defence against this appeal. In the event of a cross-appeal in Supreme Court proceedings the defendant argues this and the claimant argues its defence against it.

REPLY AND REJOINDER Brief response to the other party's pleadings.

OPINION OF THE PROCURATOR-GENERAL Thorough analysis of the case. Leads to an independent, impartial, non-binding advice to the Supreme Court. In the majority of the cases, the Supreme Court's judgment is in line with the Procurator-General's opinion.

REACTION TO THE PROCURATOR-GENERAL'S OPINION Optional brief reaction by a party to the Procurator-General's opinion. The parties cannot respond to the other party's reaction to the Procurator-General's opinion.