

## 8.1 Authority for State Post-Conviction Relief

---

### 8.1 Authority for State Post-Conviction Relief

In North Carolina, the primary vehicle to collaterally challenge a conviction is a motion for appropriate relief (MAR), authorized by G.S. 15A-1411 through G.S. 15A-1422. An MAR is a post-trial motion, usually made at the trial level, to correct errors occurring before, during, or after a criminal trial. *See State v. Handy*, 326 N.C. 532 (1990). If filed within ten days of entry of judgment, an MAR can be used to address “any error committed during or prior to the trial.” *See* G.S. 15A-1414(a). After ten days of entry of judgment, an MAR can be used to address specified errors, such as a violation of a defendant’s constitutional rights. For possible grounds for relief, see G.S. 15A-1415(b).