
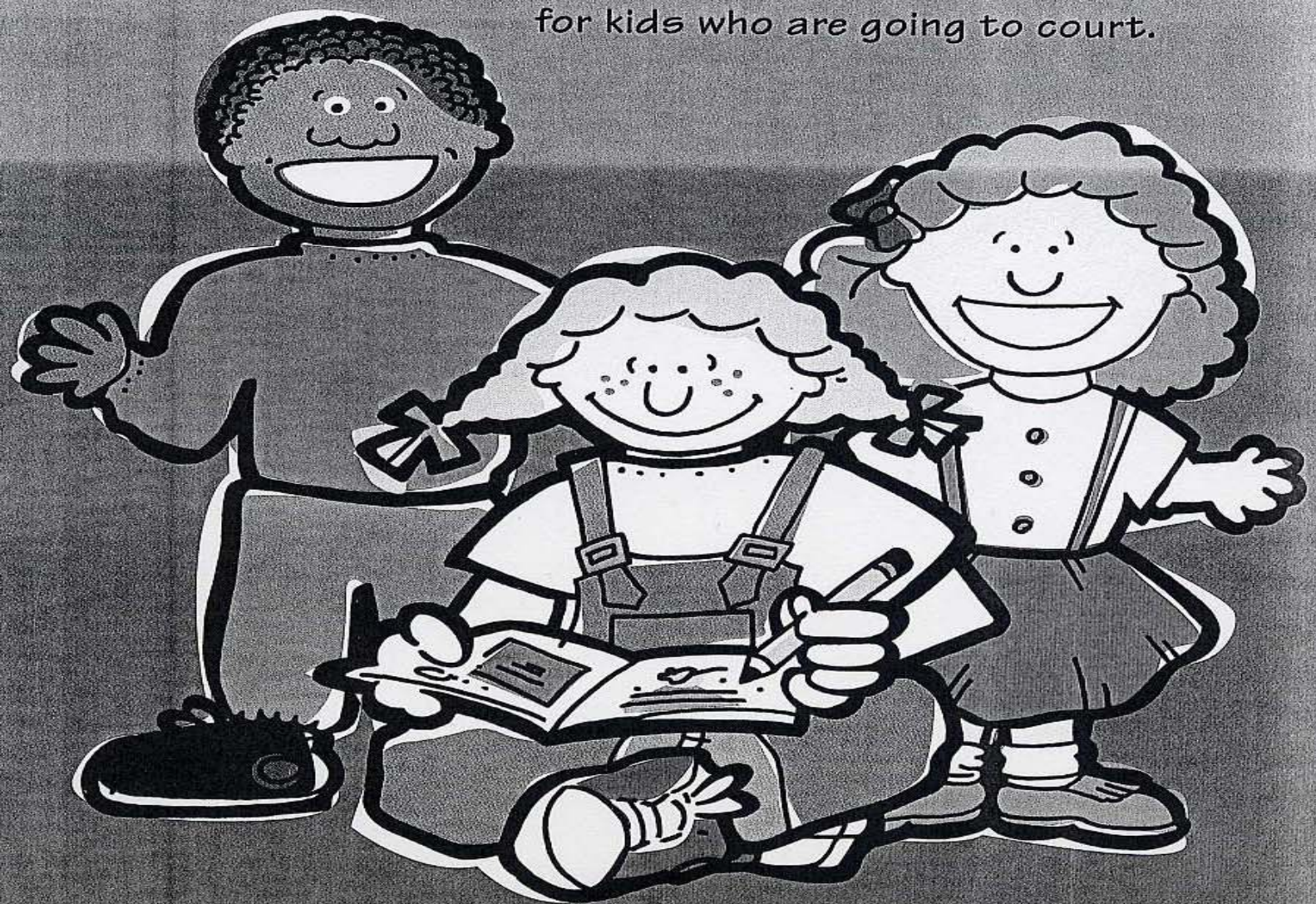



What's my job in court?



An answer and activity book
for kids who are going to court.



What's my job in court?



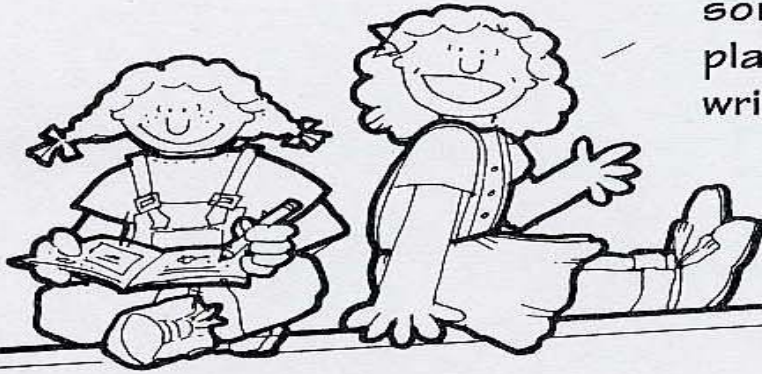
An answer and activity book for kids who are going to court.

Design and illustration by Laurie Wonfor-Nolan

What is in this Book?

Page	Index
2	Information about Me
3	Introduction
4	What does that Mean? (definitions)
5	What is a Courthouse?
6 - 7	Things to do before Court
8	The Judge
9	The District Attorney
10	The Defense Lawyer
11	The Defendant
12	The Sheriff
13	Learning about Court
14-15	What does a Witness do?
16-17	Rules of the Court
18	Other People in Court
19	The Jury
20-21	Color Fun and Connect the Dots
22	What Happens when my Job is over?
23	Guilty/Not Guilty
24-25	Match Game/Find the Word
26	Courtroom Crossword
27	Draw a Picture
28	Answer Page - do not look until you are done!!

You may want to remember some names, dates and places. Here is a place to write some of them down.



My name is _____

The District Attorney is _____

The law enforcement officer is _____

My birthday is _____ I am in Grade _____

The name of my school is _____

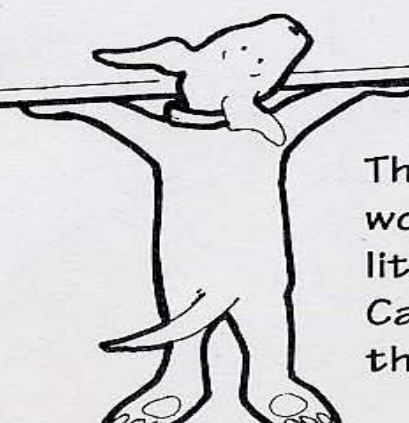
My teacher's name is _____

My favorite subject is _____

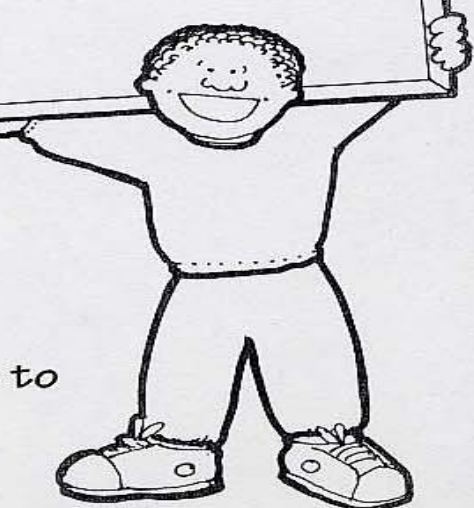
After school I like to _____

My best friends are _____

The people in my family are _____



The District Attorney would like to know a little bit about you. Can you show this page to the District Attorney?

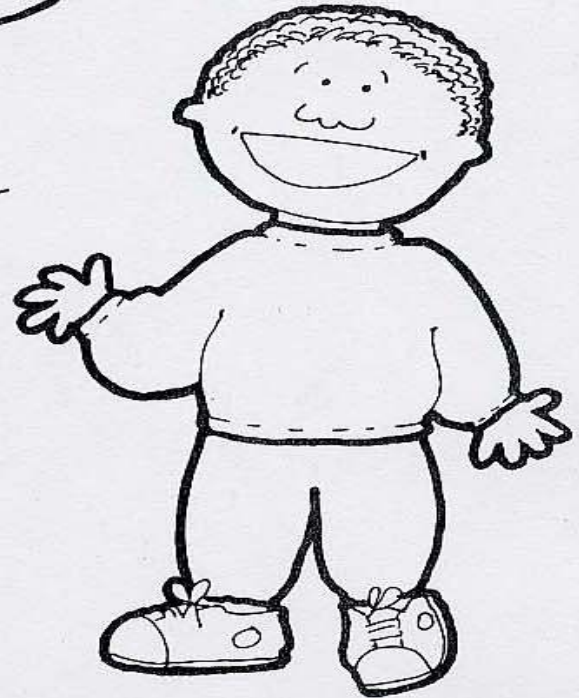




Hi. I am Angelina and this is my dog, Spot. My friends Lee and Maggie and I have an important job to do. Just like you.



We have to go to court and tell the judge about something. Maybe it is something we saw or heard. Maybe it is something that happened to us.

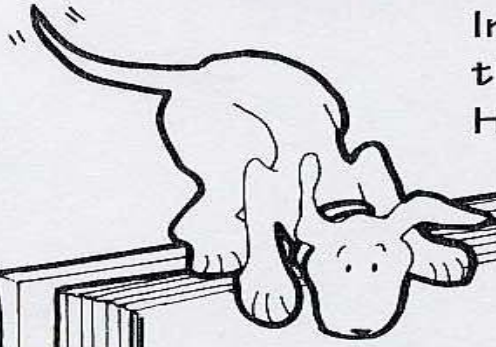


By reading this book and doing the activities, we will learn about being witnesses. Together we will think of questions to ask that can make our job easier. We will also find out about court and the people who work there.

P.S. Everyone should have their own "Spot".
Color a spot on him wherever you find him.

"What does that mean?"

In court, people use a lot of words that we may never have heard before. Here is a list of some of them:



Allegation:
Something that someone says has happened.

Charge:
The law that the police believe the defendant has broken.

Complaint:
A statement to the police accusing someone of breaking the law.

Continuance:
Put off trial until another time.

Cross-examine:
Questioning of a witness by the lawyer for the other side.

Evidence:
Things that witnesses say in court and things (such as photographs, clothes or drawings) that are brought to court to show what happened.

Interview:
A meeting with the police or District Attorney.

Juror:
A person who is on the jury.

Objection:
A reason that a lawyer interrupts a witness to talk to the judge.

Plea:
The answer the defendant gives (guilty or not guilty) to the charge.

Preliminary Hearing:
A hearing where the judge decides whether there is enough evidence to hold a trial in another court.

Sentence:
The punishment the judge gives to someone found guilty of breaking the law.

Statement:
A description that a witness gives to the police and that the police write down.

Subpoena:
A piece of paper that tells a witness when and where to come to court.

Testify:
Answer questions in court.

Testimony:
What a witness says in court.

Transcript:
A typewritten record that is made by the court reporter of what is said in court.

Trial:
A hearing that takes place when the defendant pleads "not guilty" and witnesses come to court to give evidence.

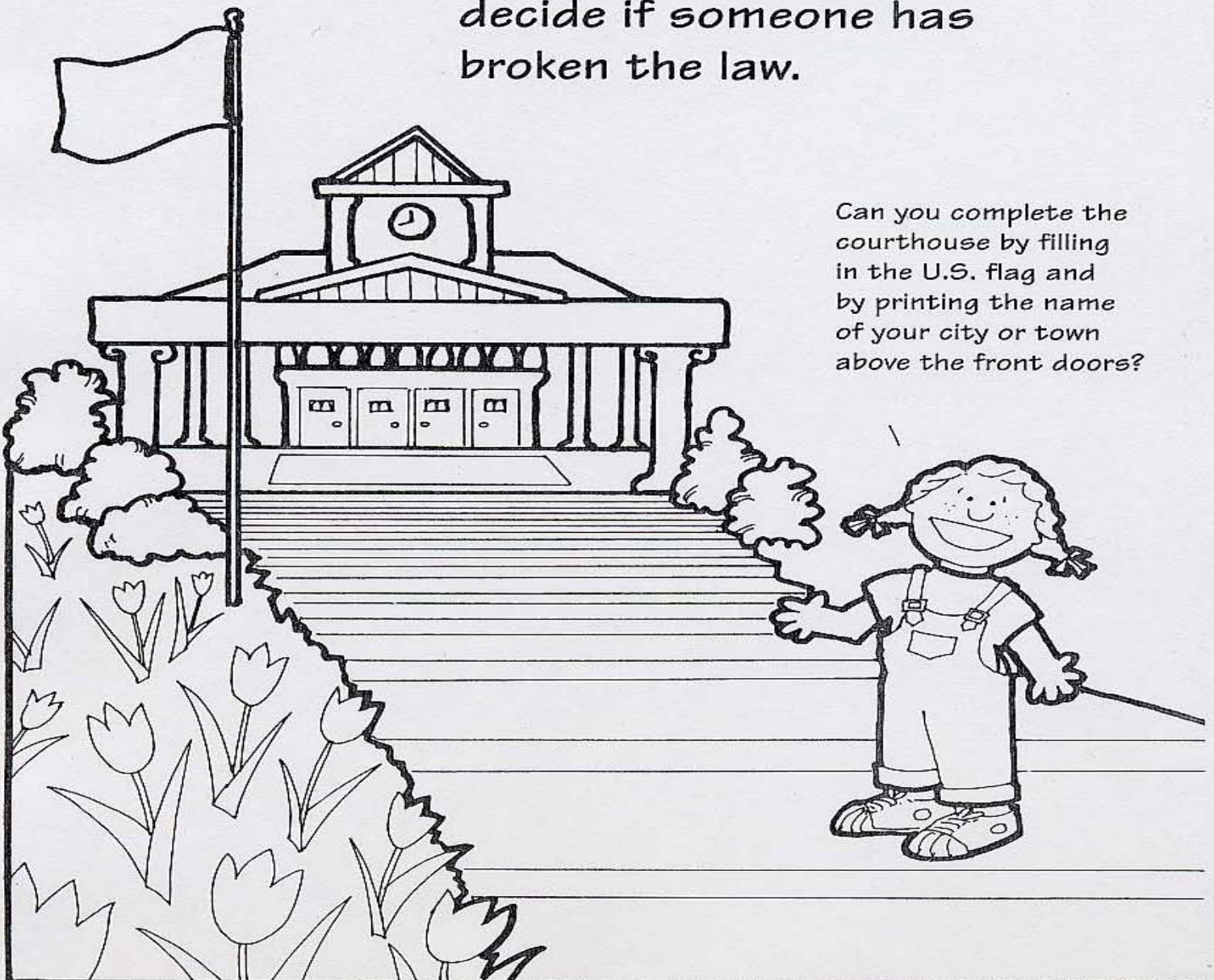


What is a courthouse?

In most towns and cities,
there is a building called
a courthouse.



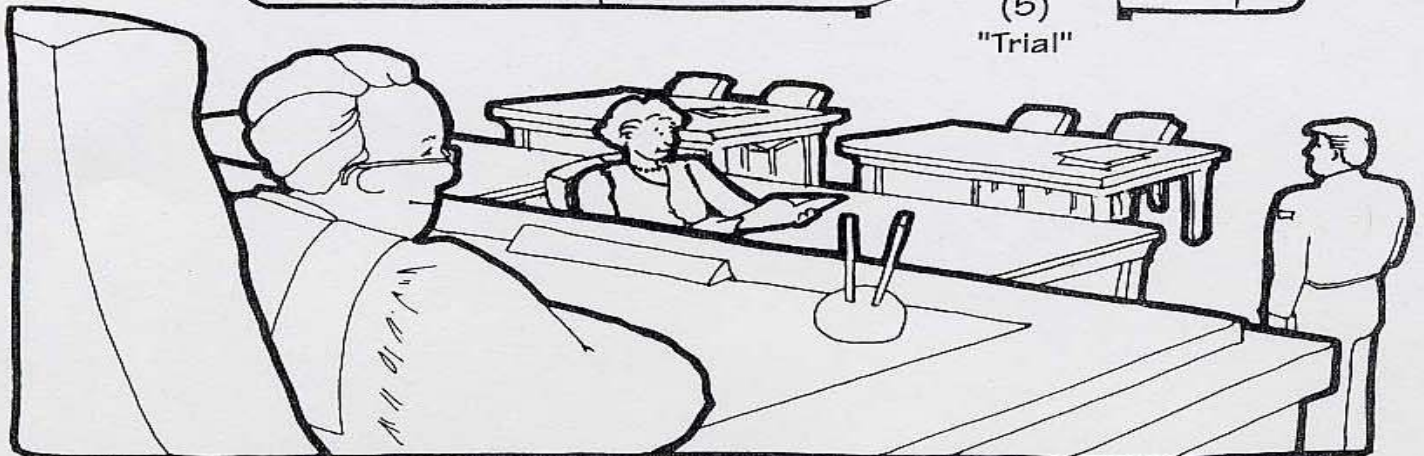
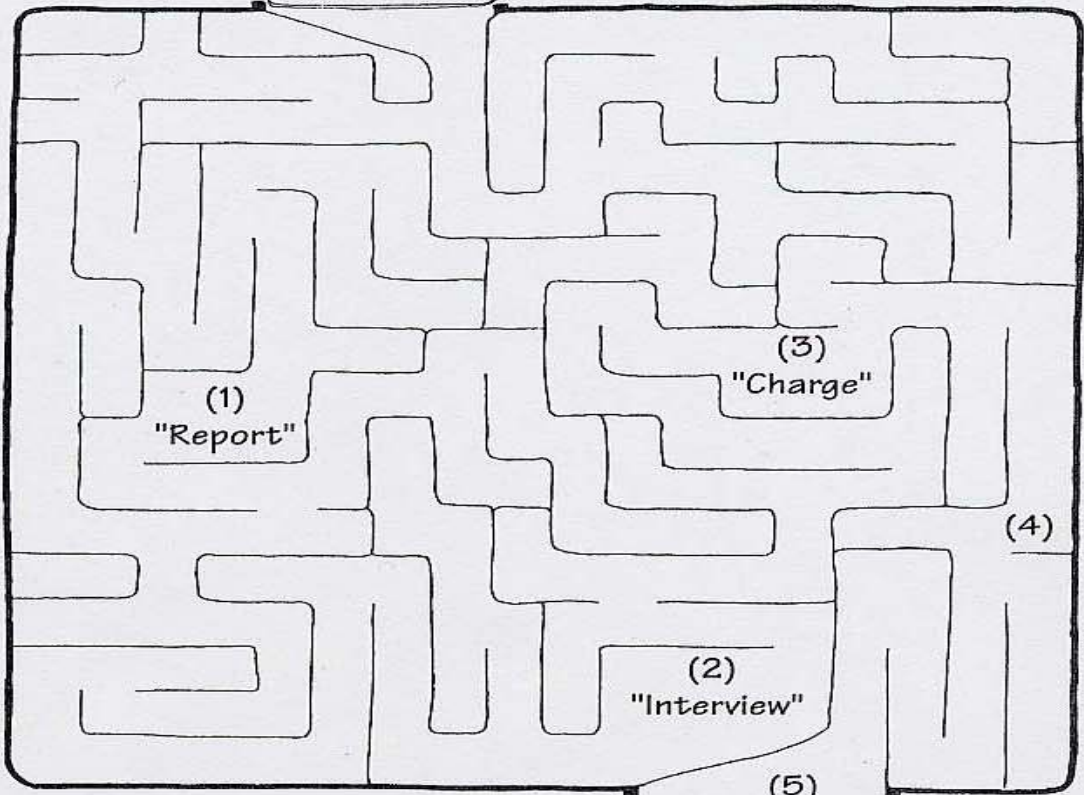
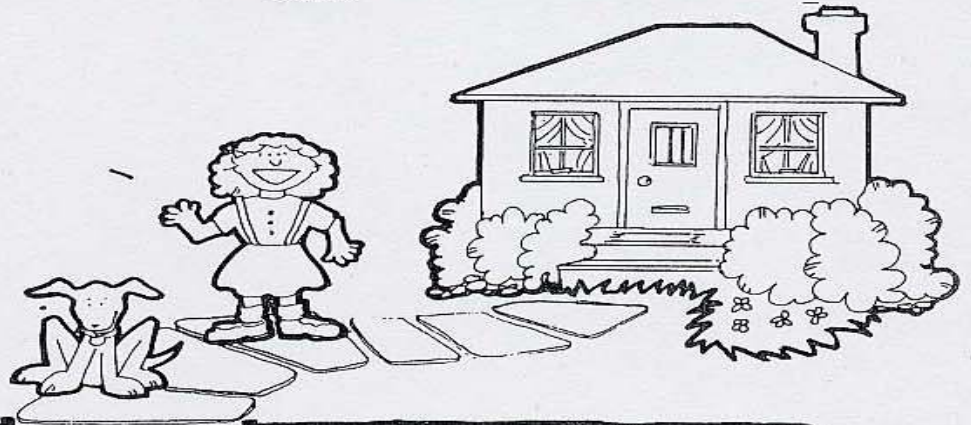
It is a place where judges,
and sometimes juries,
decide if someone has
broken the law.



Can you complete the
courthouse by filling
in the U.S. flag and
by printing the name
of your city or town
above the front doors?

Things to do

A lot happens before people get to court. Trace some of the steps.



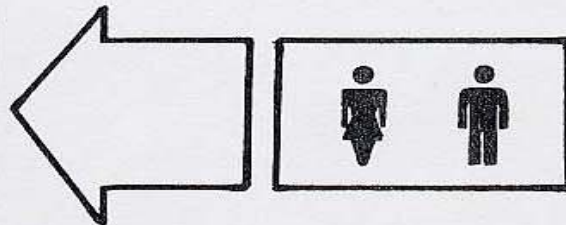
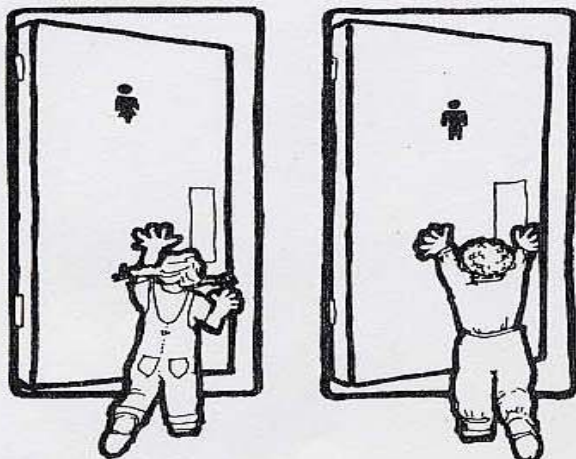
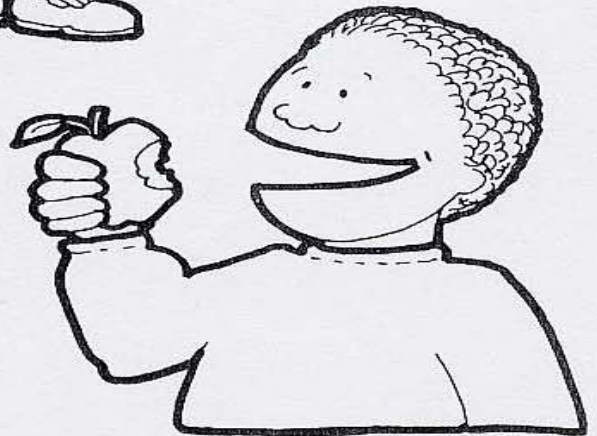
before Court



Dress to
be neat
and
comfortable.



Eat a snack.



Go to the
bathroom.

(If you need some help with the maze, turn to page 28)

What is the judge's job?



It is the judge's job to listen to everything that everyone says in court.

We can call the judge "Your Honor" when it is our turn to talk. It is also the judge's job to know the law and to decide whether there is enough evidence to prove the law was broken.

Who acts like a judge at your school?

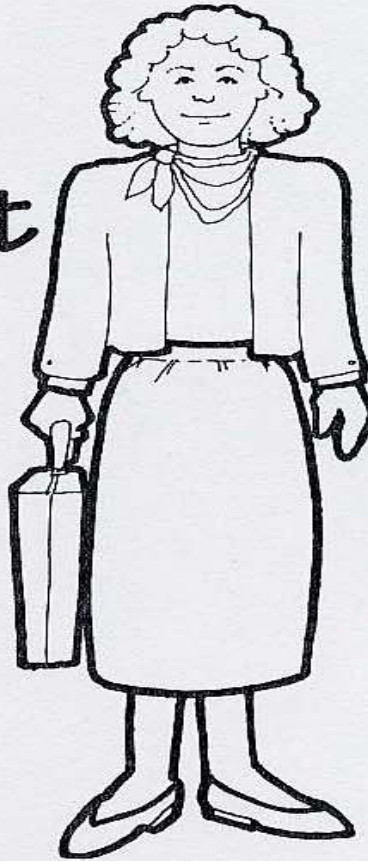
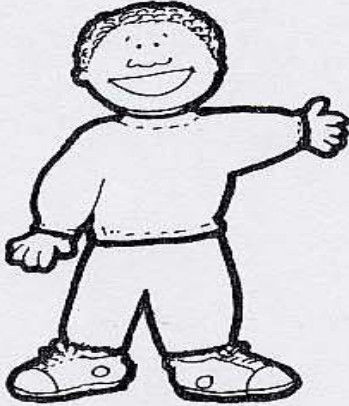


At the beginning, the judge may ask us some questions like these:

- Q. How old are you? _____
 - Q. What grade are you in? _____
 - Q. Do you know what an oath is? _____
 - Q. What does it mean when you "promise to tell the truth"? _____
 - Q. What do you think might happen if people do not tell the truth in court? _____
- _____

If we need some help in finding answers to some of these questions before we go to court, we can ask the District Attorney or Victim Witness Coordinator.

What does the District Attorney do?



The District Attorney and her assistant prosecutors help us to do our job as witnesses. The District Attorney or one of her prosecutors does this by asking us questions in court so that the judge can listen to our answers.

Can you answer these questions and show your answers to the District Attorney?

Q. Do you think it will be hard to talk to the District Attorney about what happened? Why?

Q. What questions do you want to ask the District Attorney?

Q. Do you know someone you would like to come to court with you? Who? _____

Q. Is there anything about going to court that scares you? What? _____

Draw a picture of your District Attorney.

What is the defense lawyer's job?



The defense lawyer's job is to help the defendant. The defendant is the person charged with breaking the law.



Can you give an example of breaking the law?

To do a good job, the defense lawyer tries to find out if we are telling the truth, or if we have made a mistake, or if we have made up something. That is why the defense lawyer gets a chance to ask us questions after the District Attorney has finished asking questions.

We have to listen to everyone's questions carefully and understand them before we answer.

Sometimes when we are talking in court, the defense lawyer may stand up and interrupt us to talk to the judge. Do not worry. We have not done or said anything wrong. No one is angry at us. All we have to do is stop talking until the judge or the District Attorney asks us to continue.

Who's the Defendant?



The person charged with breaking the law is called the defendant.

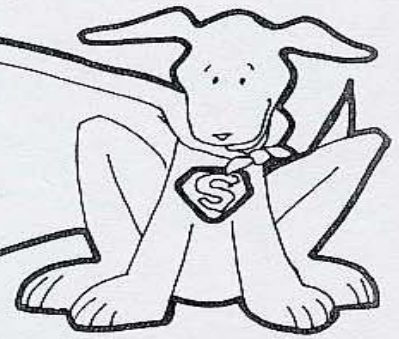
Maybe we know the defendant and maybe we do not. Maybe we have seen the defendant before and maybe we have not.

Sometimes when we do our job as witnesses, we end up talking about the defendant. The judge or the District Attorney may ask us if we see the person that we are talking about in court.

If we do, we should point to the person and tell the judge where the person is sitting.



The Sheriff

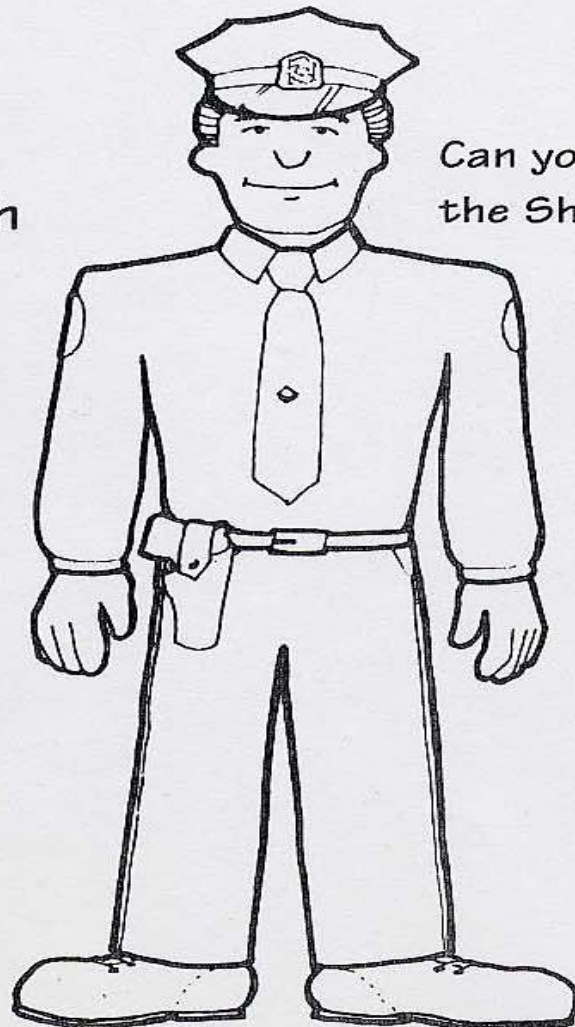


The job of the Sheriff is to keep everyone safe in court. The Sheriff in our county wears a blue uniform.

Often, the police officer or sheriff who spoke with us may be in court. That officer might also be a witness.

If we have any worries or questions about court, we can ask the officer or the District Attorney.

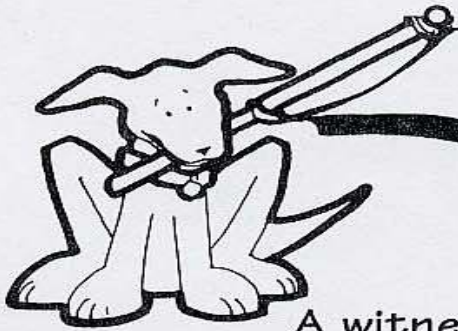
Can you color the Sheriff?



Lee is learning about
court and being a witness.



Can you color him?
(and Spot too?)



What does

A witness is a very important person in court. Our job as witnesses is to listen to questions and to give answers for the judge to hear. This is called giving evidence.



Hey, that's me!



The most important thing about being a witness is **TELLING THE TRUTH.**

What if...

1. You are asked a question and you do not understand it?

2. You are asked a question and you cannot remember the answer?

3. You are asked an embarrassing question?

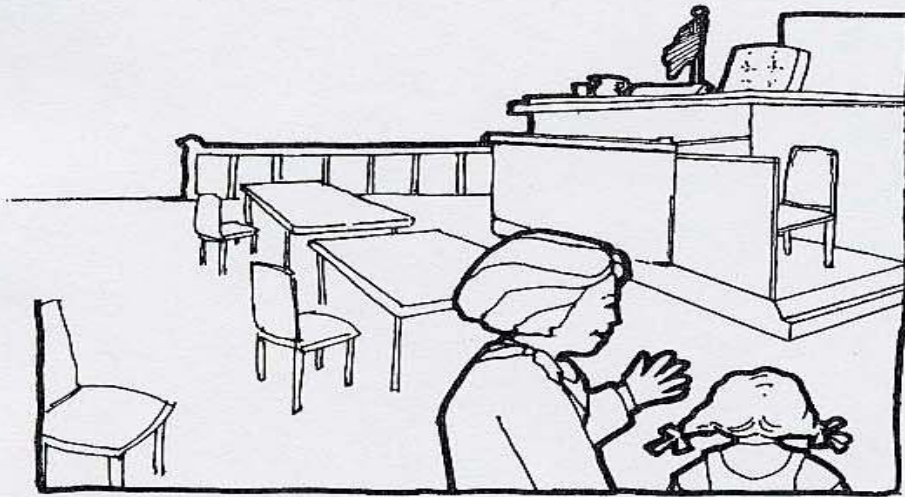
4. You cry in court?

5. You need to go to the bathroom?

6. You are asked more than one question at a time?

(If you need some help with these questions, turn to page 28)

a witness do ?

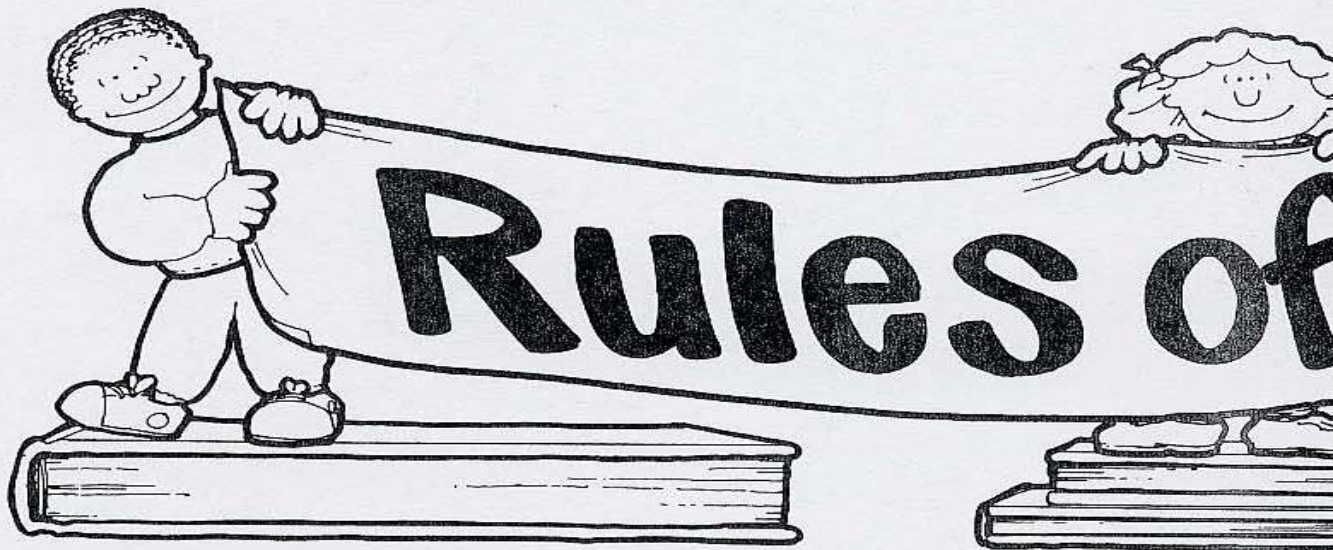


The District Attorney or Victim Witness Coordinator will show us a courtroom before it is time for us to be witnesses. If we have any questions after we see the courtroom, we can always ask the District Attorney or Victim Witness Coordinator.



Some kids are scared about going to court. If we are scared, we should tell the District Attorney or Victim Witness Coordinator.

In court sometimes the judge can order "sequestration" of the witnesses. This word means that when you give evidence, no other witnesses can be with you in the courtroom. It also means that you cannot talk about the evidence you gave until the trial is over. If you have any questions about this, ask your District Attorney. If your Mom and Dad are witnesses, you can take a special friend like the Victim Witness Coordinator with you into the courtroom to help you feel comfortable.



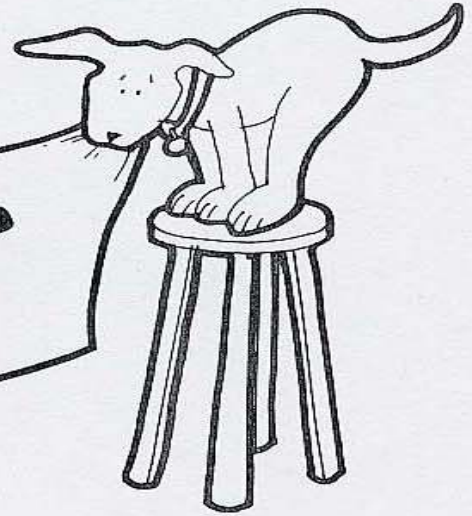
In America, everybody tries to be very careful and fair when deciding whether people have broken the law or not. That is because if people are found guilty of breaking the law, they can be punished.

It is not enough that the judge or jury thinks the defendant probably broke the law. The law says that a judge or jury cannot find a person guilty unless they feel certain that the person broke the law.

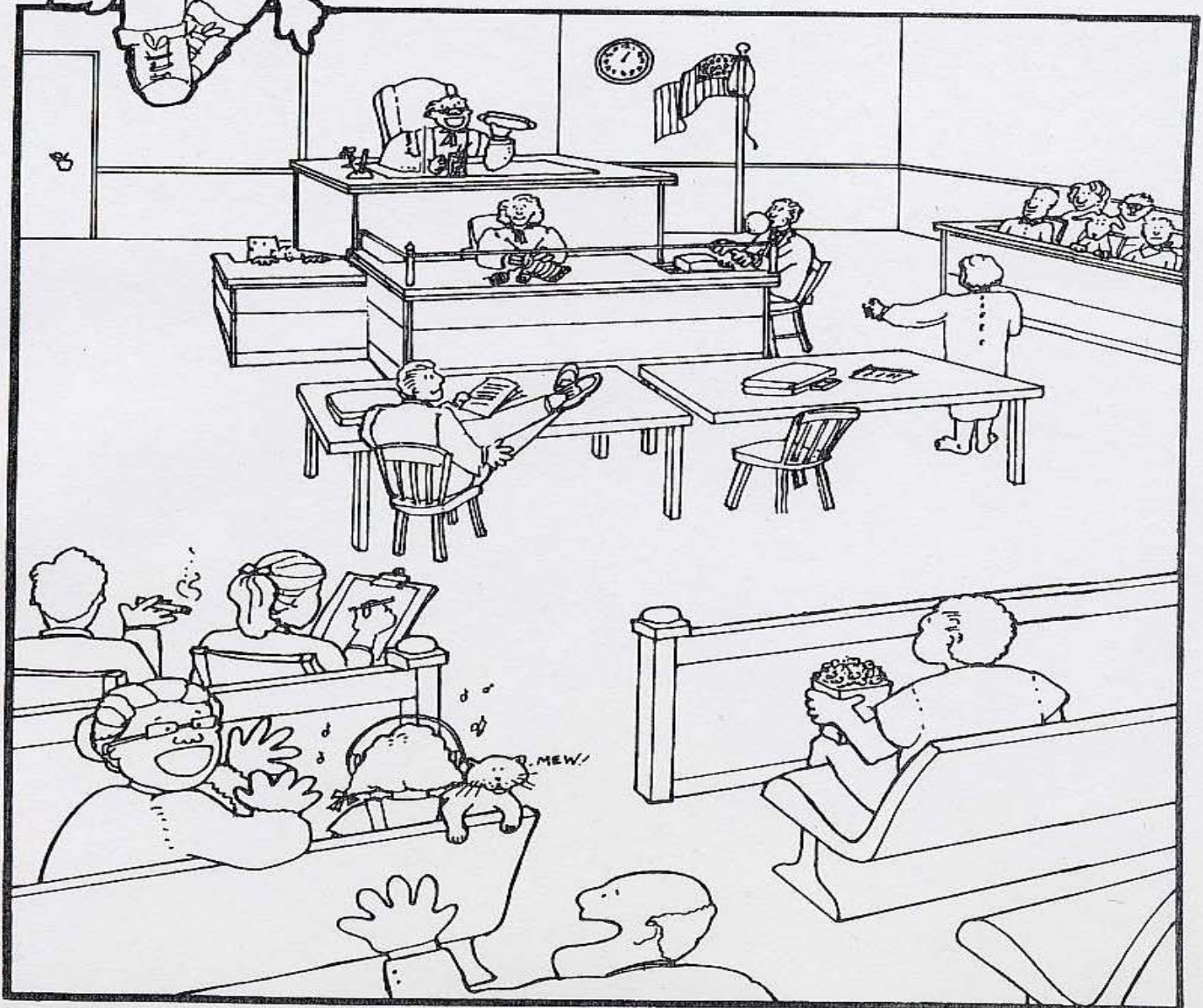
Rules for Witnesses

- Tell the truth.
- If you cannot remember something or do not understand what someone says, you can say "I do not understand."
- If you do not know the answer to a question, say you do not know -- do not guess.
- If you are sure about the answer to a question, you can say so. If you are not sure, you can tell the judge what parts you are not sure you can answer.
- Talk to the judge if something is bothering you or if you have a question while you are being a witness.

the Court



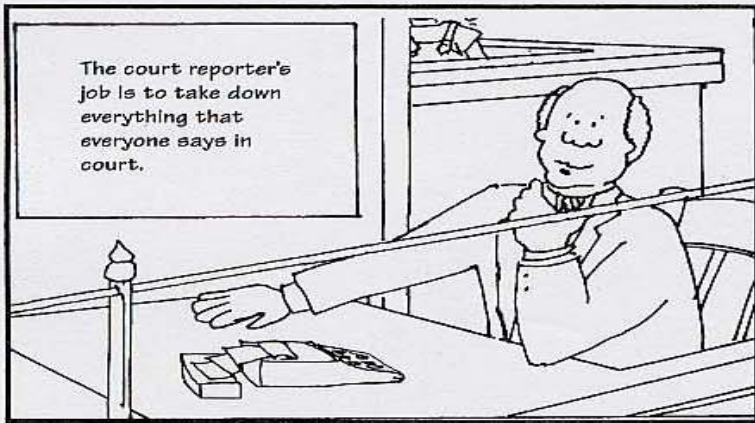
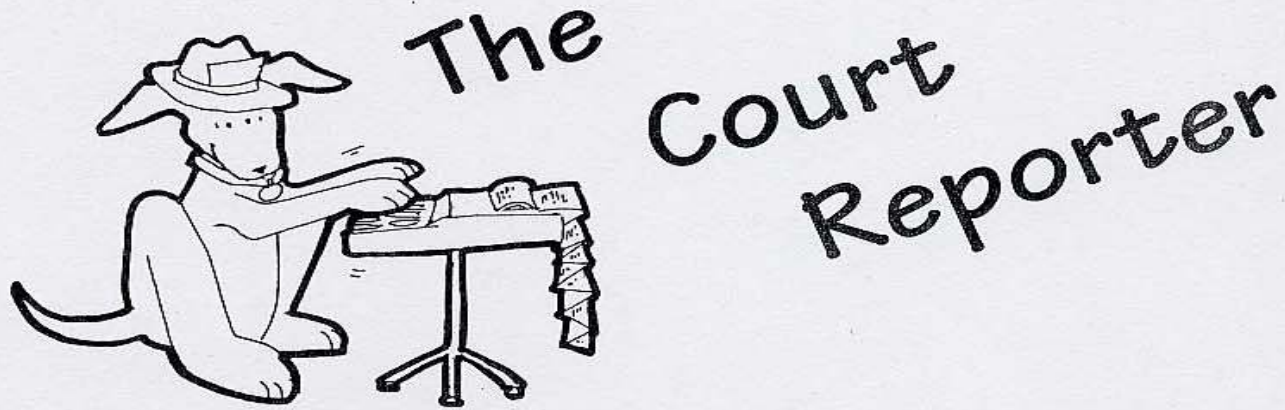
There are a lot of things wrong in this courtroom
How many can you find?



(You can find the answers on page 28)



The clerk of the court's job is to help the judge. When the judge comes in, the clerk says, "All rise." That means everybody stand up.

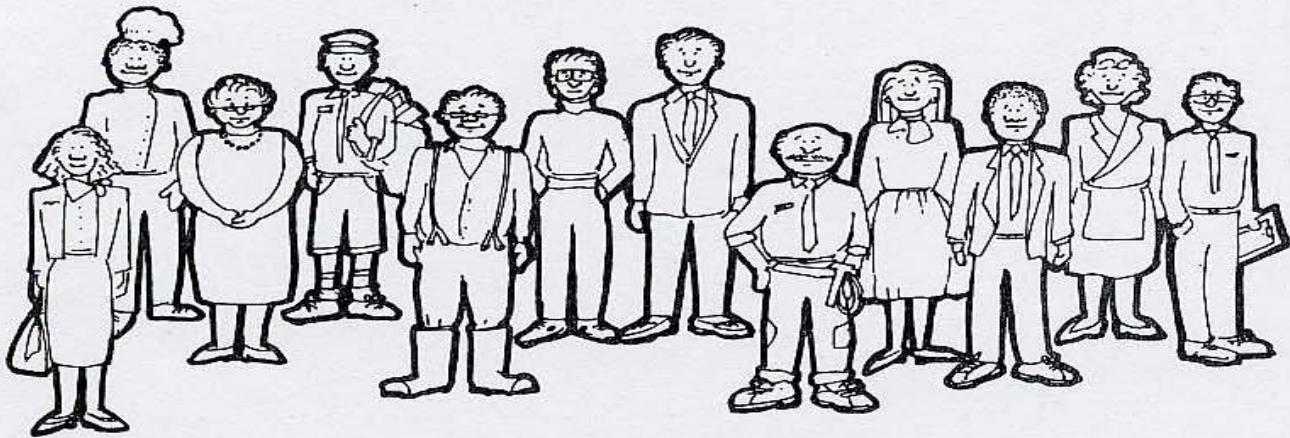


The court Reporter will ask you to take an oath and to raise your right hand. An oath is a promise to tell the truth. If you agree to tell the truth, say "I do".

It is very important to tell the truth in court. How would you tell the judge in your own words that you will tell the truth?

All about the Jury

Sometimes it is the judge who decides whether or not the defendant broke the law. Sometimes, a jury is chosen to do this.

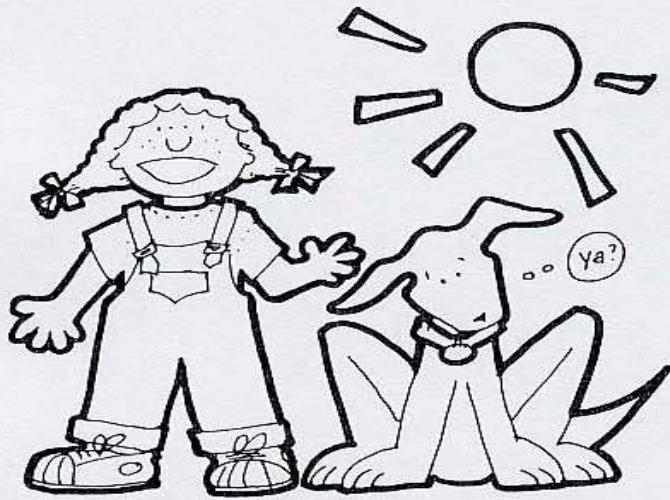


A jury is made up of 12 men and women. The people on the jury are called jurors, and they are picked by the District Attorney and the defense lawyer. The jury's job is to listen carefully to all the witnesses and to try to decide together whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of breaking the law.



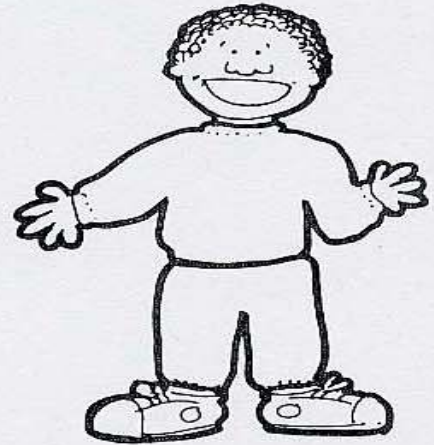
The decision of the jury is called a Verdict.





What happens when my job is over?

Some kids do not want to know what happens in court after they have finished being a witness. Other kids want to come back and find out what the judge or jury decides about the case. We can always talk to the District Attorney about what we would like to do.

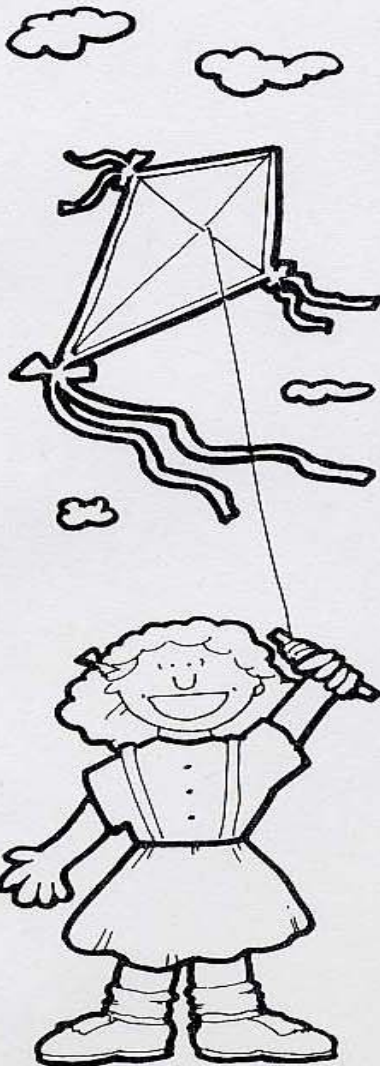


If the judge or jury finds the defendant not guilty of breaking the law, the defendant is free to go. If the defendant is found guilty, one of the things the judge must decide is how to keep the defendant from breaking the law again. To do this, sometimes the judge sets rules about what the defendant can and cannot do, sometimes the judge makes the defendant pay money, sometimes the judge sends the defendant to jail, and sometimes the judge makes the defendant get help.

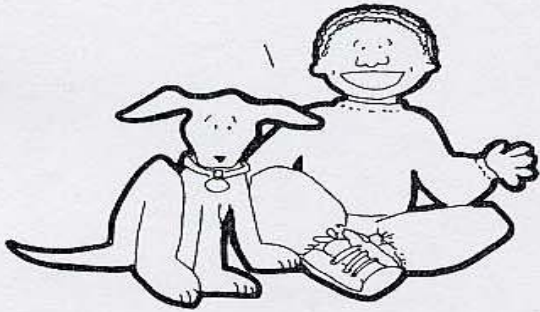
If we have any questions about what the judge decides in the case, we can ask the District Attorney.

After it is all over, if we feel sad or upset, we should talk to someone we trust about how we feel.

Whatever happens, we will have done an important job by being a witness. And we will have learned a lot about court and what goes on there.



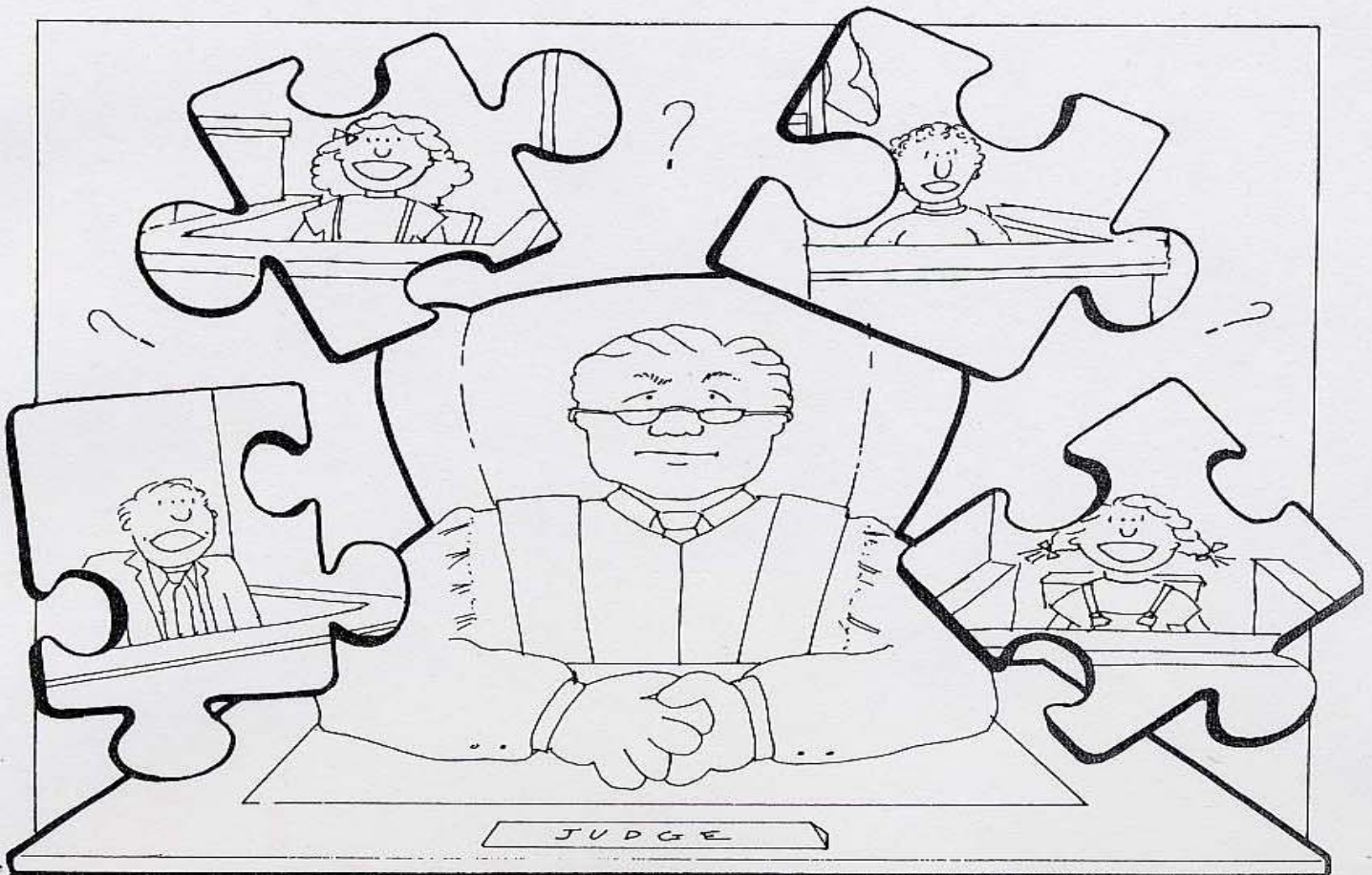
Have you ever had to make an important decision about what to believe?



~~Guilty~~ not guilty

The judge or jury has to listen to all the witnesses and try to make a decision about what happened. This part of their job is like putting the pieces of a puzzle together.

Sometimes the judge or jury may be confused because some of the pieces are missing and other pieces are not clear. Unless they feel sure that the defendant broke the law, the judge or jury must find the defendant not guilty.



Match Game

Match the people in column A to their job in column B.
The first one is done for you. See the answers on page 28.

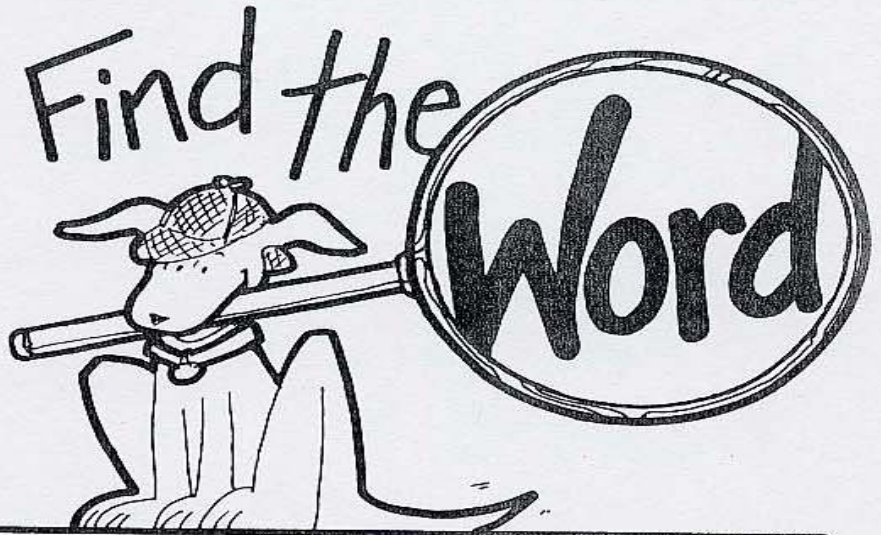
----- A -----

- Judge •
- District Attorney •
or Prosecutor
- Victim Witness •
Coordinator
- Defense Lawyer •
- Clerk of the Court •
- Court Reporter •
- Sheriff •
- Jury •
- Witness •
- Defendant •

----- B -----

- A person who tells the judge about something that has happened.
- The person on trial who is charged with breaking the law.
- The person who makes sure everyone is safe in court.
- The person who listens to all the witnesses and decides what happens in the trial.
- The person who helps you tell the judge what happened.
- The person who helps answer questions about court and who may go with you into the courtroom.
- The person who helps the defendant in court.
- The person who tells everyone when to stand.
- The person who records everything in court.
- Twelve people who try to decide together if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

Words are hidden in this puzzle across, up and down, and diagonally. These words are sometimes used in court. When you find a word, circle it and cross it off the list. The first one is done for you. The rest of the answers are on page 28. (But do not peek yet!)



B	C	H	A	R	G	E	S	P	L	E	A	Z	M
A	Q	R	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	E	J	P	L
I	P	B	O	A	T	H	S	C	T	R	U	T	H
L	R	S	L	W	E	E	E	T	O	M	R	T	R
S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	P	M	U	O	A	E
T	L	A	I	T	S	A	B	J	O	T	R	N	P
A	I	L	I	O	U	A	T	U	T	L	E	T	O
T	M	W	N	B	B	C	E	T	I	D	I	E	R
E	I	C	Q	J	P	V	S	L	O	Y	Y	C	T
M	N	L	U	E	O	U	T	C	N	R	O	E	E
E	A	E	I	C	E	S	I	Z	U	I	N	R	R
N	R	R	R	T	N	H	F	J	U	D	G	E	K
T	Y	K	Y	Y	A	Z	Y	G	U	I	L	T	Y
A	L	L	E	G	E	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E

ALLEGE
BAIL
CHARGE
CLERK
CODE

COURT
DEFENSE
EVIDENCE
GUILTY
INQUIRY
JUDGE

JUROR
JURY
MOTION
OATH
OBJECT
PLEA

POLICE
PRELIMINARY
REPORTER
SENTENCE
STATEMENT

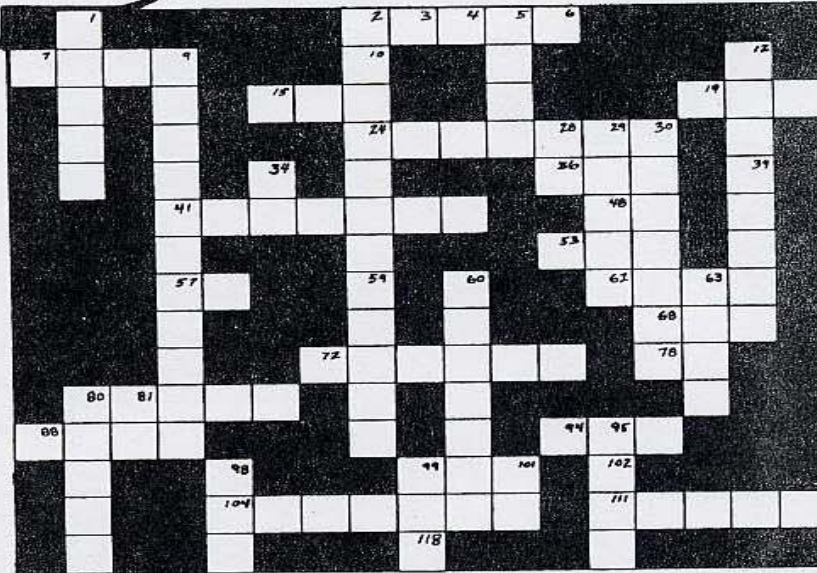
SUBPOENA
TESTIFY
TRUTH
WITNESS



Lots of words in the puzzle
are used in court.
If you want some help,
the answers are on page 28.

COURTROOM

WORDSEARCH



ACROSS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>2. The place where cases are heard before a judge.</p> <p>7. Food you eat when you are feeling ill is chicken noodle _____.</p> <p>15. Another word for "also".</p> <p>19. When you agree, you say ____.</p> <p>24. Someone the police think has broken the law.</p> <p>36. What word is missing in "shall be ____ truth"?</p> <p>39. 4-4=_____.</p> <p>41. To look at closely. (Hint: this word sounds like respect.)</p> | <p>48. The middle two letters in the word "list".</p> <p>53. A type of airplane.</p> <p>57. The opposite of out.</p> <p>59. The first letter of the alphabet.</p> <p>61. Money that a person who is found guilty has to pay.</p> <p>68. "A penny ____ your thoughts".</p> <p>72. The person against whom a crime is committed.</p> <p>78. An old English word that means "you".</p> <p>80. A person on the jury.</p> | <p>88. Twelve people who decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.</p> <p>94. Angela's friend, Spot is a ____.</p> <p>99. If you want to know something, you should ____.</p> <p>102. The first letter in the word "allege".</p> <p>104. What the court clerk says when the judge comes into court.</p> <p>111. It is important that all the witnesses tell the ____.</p> <p>118. The first letter in the word "day".</p> |
|---|--|--|

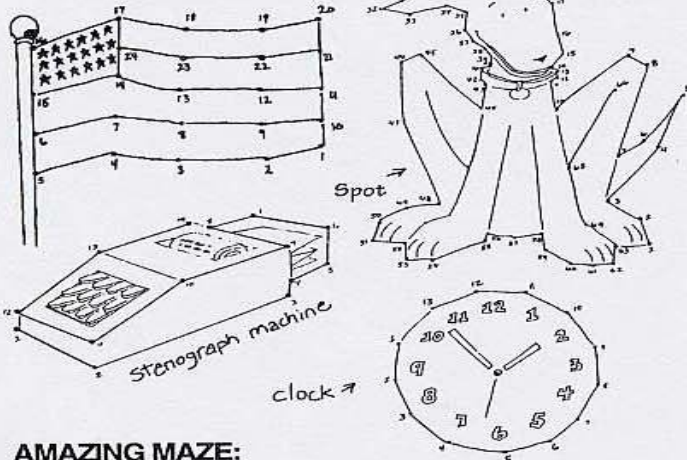
DOWN

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. You can call the judge "Your _____".</p> <p>2. What the defense lawyer may do to check your evidence.</p> <p>5. A handicapped person gains access to court by using a _____.</p> <p>9. A hearing where the judge decides whether there is enough evidence for a full trial.</p> <p>12. The person who records what everyone says in court is the court _____.</p> | <p>28. The initial for "Extra Terrestrial"</p> <p>29. The leader of a native tribe.</p> <p>30. Answer questions in court.</p> <p>34. The two middle letters of the word "Miss".</p> <p>60. A person who answers questions in court for the judge to hear.</p> <p>63. The French word for Christmas.</p> <p>72. A sign for victory.</p> <p>80. The person who listens to the witnesses and decides what happens in the trial.</p> | <p>81. Two letters that sound like "you are".</p> <p>88. The first letter in the word "jury".</p> <p>95. A promise to tell the truth.</p> <p>98. A boy's name (rhymes with "ham").</p> <p>99. Another word for "help".</p> <p>101. The cottage is on a la_____.</p> |
|---|--|---|

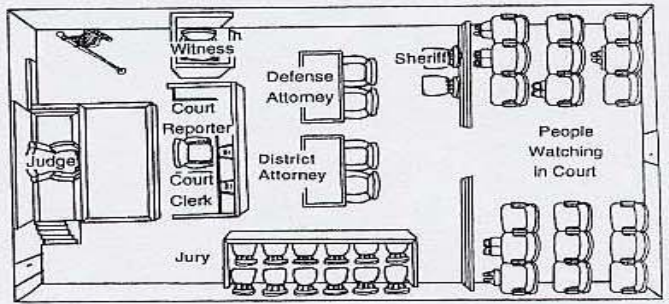
Answer Page



CONNECT THE DOTS:



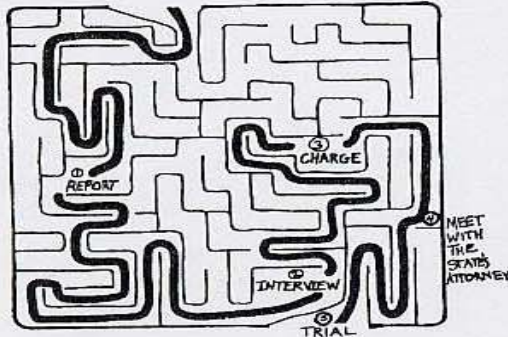
WHERE DOES EVERYBODY SIT?:



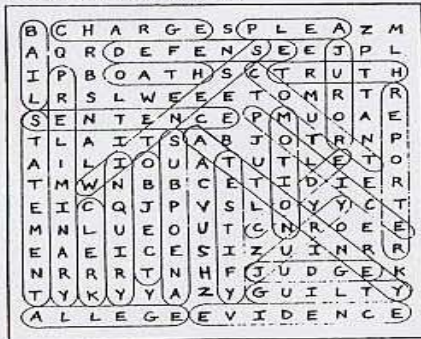
WHAT IF

1. If you don't understand what people are asking, say "I don't understand." If they repeat it and you still don't know what they mean, ask them to say it in a different way or an easier way.
2. You might be asked about things that you don't remember or about things that didn't happen. If you don't remember, say "I don't remember". Don't guess. If you know something never happened, say so. If you forget the order in which things happened, it is okay. The most important thing is to tell the truth.
3. You might be asked to talk about things that are embarrassing. That is hard to do. Remember that judges and lawyers and everyone in court have heard people talk about embarrassing things a lot of times. You can tell the judge you are embarrassed, but you should tell the judge what happened even if it is embarrassing.
4. Lots of people cry in court. It is okay. If you think you might cry in court, tell the District Attorney. The District Attorney can make sure there are tissues. Tell the District Attorney what you want to happen if you cry. Do you want a break or do you want to keep on going?
5. It is always a good idea to go to the bathroom just before you go into court to be a witness. If you need to go to the bathroom while you are giving evidence, tell the judge you need a break. If you're nervous about doing this, talk to the District Attorney before court about what you should do. You might agree to raise your hand so that the District Attorney can tell the judge you need a break.
6. It is easy to get mixed up or to mix up people who are listening to you if you are asked too many questions at a time. You might tell the lawyer who is asking you questions to ask you only one thing at a time so that you can answer properly.

AMAZING MAZE:



FIND THE WORD:



COURTROOM CROSSWORD:



MATCH GAME:

- JUDGE:** The person who listens to all the witnesses and decides what happens in the trial.
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** The person who helps you tell the judge what happened.
- VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR:** The person who answers questions about court and who may go with you to the courtroom.
- DEFENSE LAWYER:** The person who helps the defendant in court.
- CLERK OF THE COURT:** The person who tells everyone when to stand.
- COURT REPORTER:** The person who records everything in court.
- SHERIFF:** The person who makes sure everyone is safe in court.
- JURY:** Twelve people who try to decide together if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.
- WITNESS:** A person who tells the judge about something that happened.
- DEFENDANT:** The person on trial who is charged with breaking the law.

WHAT IS WRONG IN THIS COURTROOM?

1. The judge is eating a hot dog and drinking a can of soda. You should not eat in the courtroom, but it is a good idea to bring a snack with you while you wait.
2. The witness can hardly see over the witness box. If you cannot see properly when you are in the witness box, ask the District Attorney for a different chair or a booster seat.
3. There is an apple instead of a doorknob on the courtroom door.
4. The clock only has one hand.
5. There is a flower growing out of the judge's pen holder.
6. The stripes are vertical instead of horizontal on the American flag.
7. The clerk of the court is knitting a sweater. She should be listening to what is happening in court and ready to help the judge.
8. The court reporter is blowing bubble gum. Don't chew gum in court.
9. Spot is sitting in the jury box. Spot didn't notice that there is a kitten in the courtroom. Pets are not allowed in court, but if you would like to bring a special toy to hold while you are waiting, that is fine. If there is someone you want to come into the courtroom with you, ask the District Attorney.
10. The District Attorney has bare feet. That may be okay to go to the beach, but in court try to be neat and comfortable, and do wear shoes!
11. The defense attorney has his feet up on the desk. Everyone should try to sit up straight in court.
12. There are only 2 legs on the District Attorney's table.
13. People sitting in the seats are talking. They should try not to talk while the judge is in court. If they have to say something, they should whisper or leave quietly and talk outside.
14. Someone is eating popcorn. This is not a movie; going to court is serious. No one should eat while in the courtroom, even if that person is just watching.
15. Someone is listening to a walkman. You shouldn't be listening to a radio in court. When you are in court, you have to listen carefully to the questions you are asked.
16. Someone is smoking. Smoking is not allowed in the courtroom.

This booklet, with permission, was adapted for use by the Office of the District Attorney, Eighteenth Judicial District, Wichita, Kansas, based upon a booklet created by the Victim Witness Assistance Program of The Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario. The original book was designed and illustrated by Laurie Wonfor-Nolan and modified for our use by our Victim Witness Coordinators. It is intended to familiarize children in an educational and appealing way with the concepts, people, vocabulary, and events that are a part of the court process.

We expect that children will vary in their use of this booklet, depending on their age and interest. Some children may simply want to color in it while they wait to meet the District Attorney, or to testify. Others may be interested in the activities and more complex concepts. Some children might use it as a reference to help them understand the criminal court process. It is not meant to replace legal advice nor is it a substitute for careful preparation of children who must testify.

We hope that this booklet will encourage dialogue between child witnesses and the District Attorney, as well as other supportive adults. We also hope that it will help adults to understand the fear and confusion that children feel when they are faced with the job of testifying and enable both children and adults to ask questions and seek answers.

Paid for with federal monies from a Crime Victims' Assistant Fund grant and with monies recovered in asset forfeitures.

Our thanks to the Wichita Area Technical College for their layout assistance.

