

Let's Talk About Court



Navigating the court system for
little ones.

Before getting into what court is, let's learn a little bit about you!

My name is: _____

How old are you? _____

My favorite color is: _____

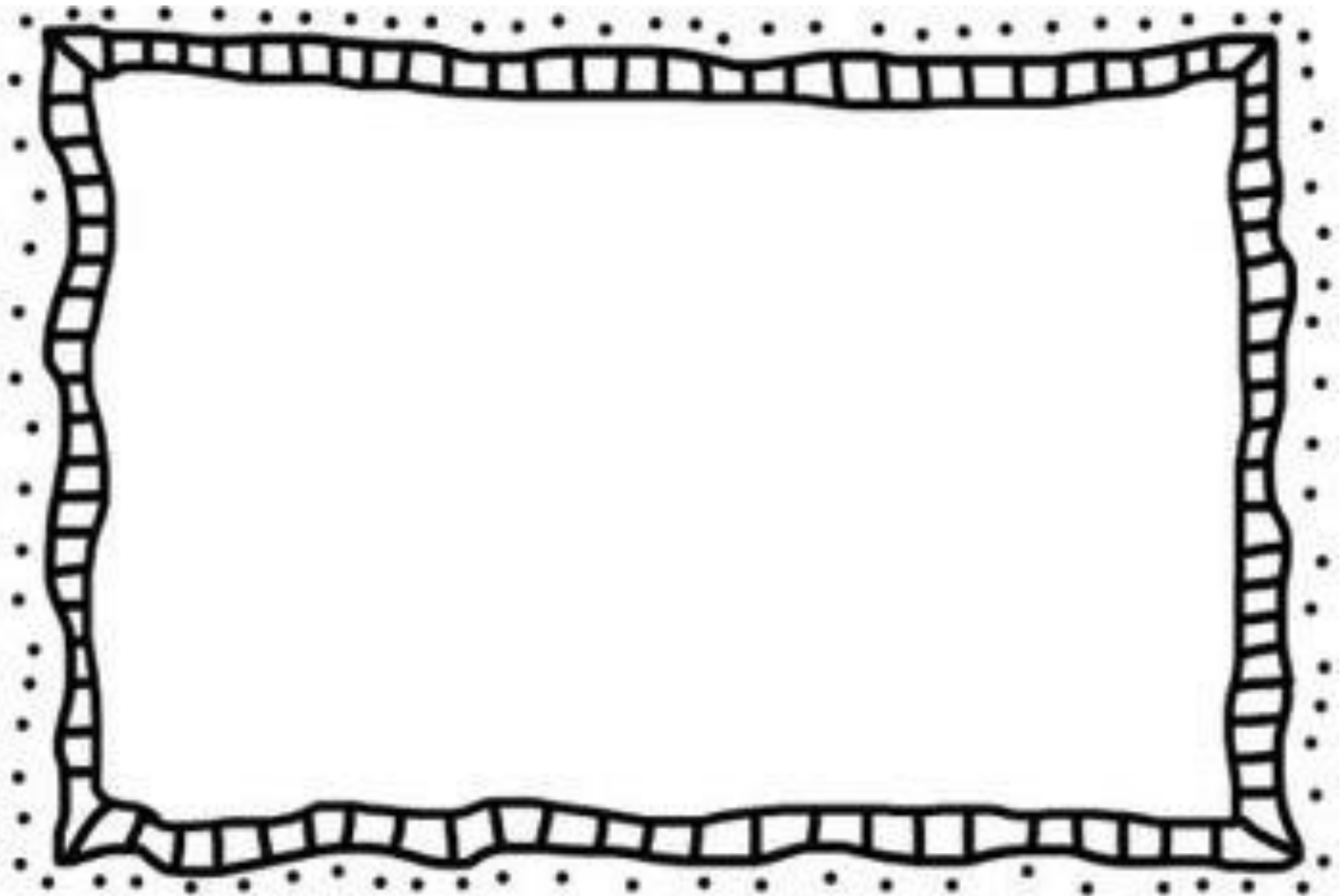
My favorite food is: _____

The people I live with are: _____

I am happiest when I am: _____

What makes you feel strong? _____

Draw a picture of yourself doing something that you really enjoy:

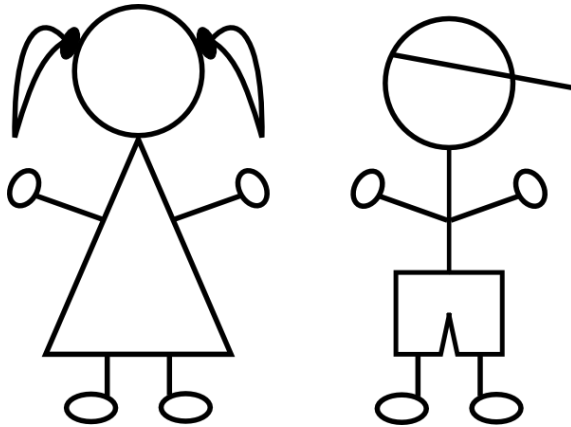


What is this court thing?

Court is a place where legal matters are decided by a judge and jury or a magistrate.

Why am I here?

Just visiting



I'm here for a case

I have no idea why I am here



Who Are All the People in Court?

You will see all kinds of people in court: people that work there and some that are there for their own cases to be heard. Everyone that works at the courthouse, has their own special job to do.

Here are some important people that you may see in the courtroom:

Judge: In many courtrooms, the judge may be wearing a long black robe. The judge will usually sit at the very front and center of the courtroom, where everyone can see and hear them. When the judge walks in the courtroom, everyone will stand and you will be told when to be seated.

The judge has many important jobs; one of the big jobs is to serve as a kind of referee. You might have seen referees in ballgames. The judge makes sure that everyone follows the rules of the courtroom. Another important job for the judge can be to decide the final verdict or answer in which people may come to court in disagreement about.



Jurors: Jurors are regular people chosen from the community by the courts to hear everyone's side of the disagreements or statements. The jurors can help settle how the disagreements can be handled or settled. A group of jurors is called a **jury**.

Lawyers: People that go to court often have people called lawyers to help them tell their side of the story to the others in court. Lawyers are sometime called attorneys. Each lawyer only represent one person in court. Lawyers also give advice to the people they represent to help settle things in court. It is the job of the lawyer to talk to the judge and follow the rules of the judge and the court.

District Attorney: The District Attorney is also referred to as the prosecutor. The prosecutor has many different jobs. The prosecutor represents the state and also a prosecutor helps decide if charges can be brought against someone who possibly did something wrong.

Bailiff: The bailiff is pretty easy to spot in the courtroom. The bailiff is usually wearing a law enforcement uniform. A bailiff is there to help make sure everyone follows the rules of the judge and the court.

Interpreters: Interpreters are there for people who cannot speak or understand the English language. Their job is to translate what everyone is saying so that they can understand everything that is going on in the courtroom.

Court Reporter: A court reporter is the person in the courtroom who takes the notes of everything that is said or happens in the courtroom. They can type really fast.



Court Clerks: Court clerks often help keep all the important papers and documents for court cases, keeps track of decisions that are made in the court and the orders that the judge makes.

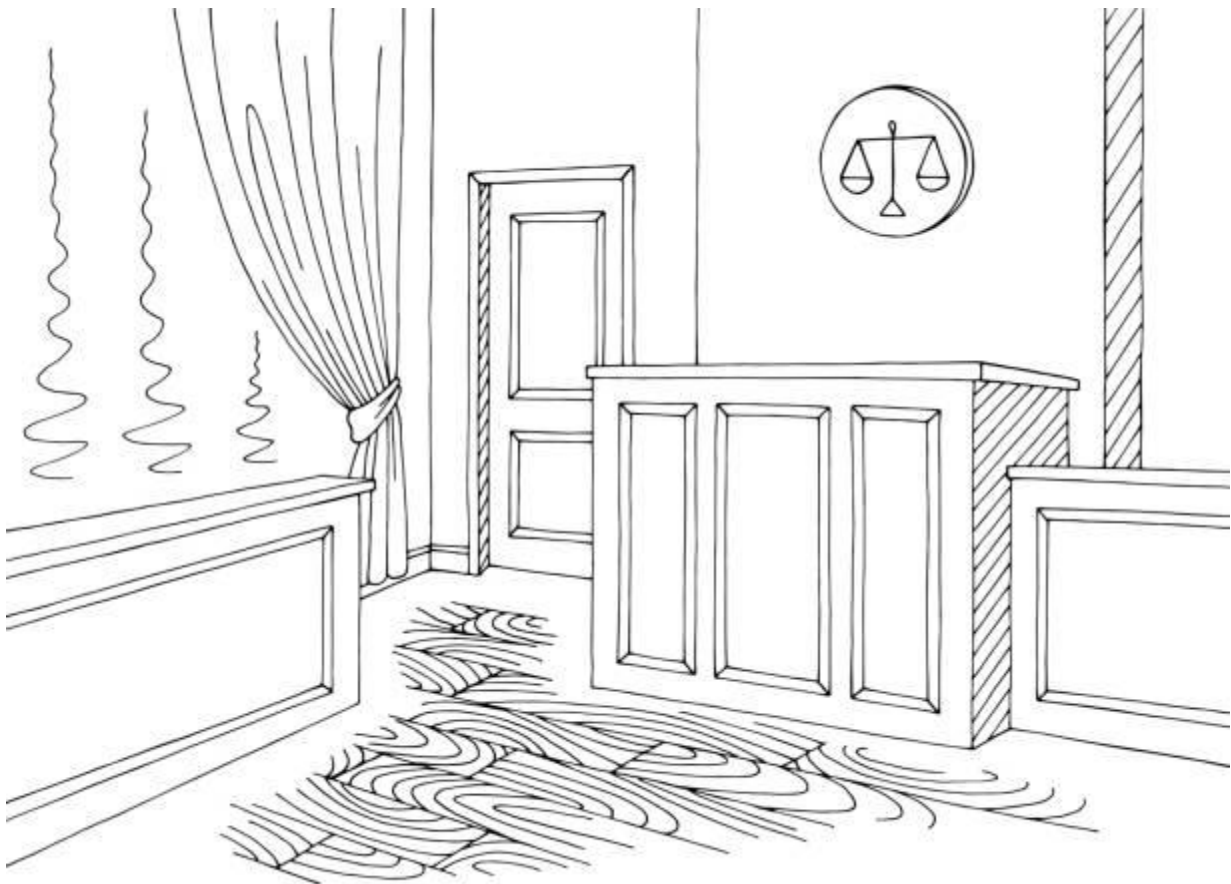
Witnesses: Witnesses are people that come to court to tell what they have seen or heard about the court case. When witnesses come to court, they have to raise their right hand and promise to tell the truth about what they have seen, heard or experienced about the case.

Guardian Ad Litem: Sometimes kids are appointed people called Guardians Ad Litem or in short terms, GAL. It is the job of the GAL to represent the children in the case being heard and to make sure their best interests and voices are heard in the courtroom.

How Should I Act in Court?

- Be yourself 😊
- Be on time
- Be respectful to everyone
- Dress neatly
- Don't go in alone. Make sure you have your support and trusted adult with you
- No food or drinks in court
- No music, cell phones or tablets in court
- There may be other cases before yours, it is important that you are quiet so that other people's cases can be heard
- You do not need to speak unless one of the court persons asks you to
- If you do not understand something, it is completely okay to tell them that you do not understand. Never guess at an answer. It is okay to say that you do not know the answer to the question or ask them nicely to ask the question another way
- Always tell the truth

Color the courtroom how you think it should look.



I am called to speak in court, now what?

Sometimes people think court can be a scary place or worry what it is like because you have never been before. That is okay! Even grownups get scared too. There are so many people that are here to help you along the way. If court is something that you think you are scared or uncertain about, talk to your trusted adult. They can help find the right people to help you through the process and make you feel more comfortable 😊

So, now it is your turn to talk in front of the court. What happens now? The most important thing that you can do, is tell the truth. You may be asked to take a special promise or “oath” to tell the truth before you speak. Sometimes it may hurt or not be comfortable to tell the truth, but it is so important to tell it. You are there to be heard.

Different attorneys and maybe even the judge, will be allowed to ask you questions. It is your job to answer the questions that they ask, unless your lawyer or the judge tells you not to. And again, always tell the truth. If you do not know or do not remember the answer to a question, it is okay to say that you do not know. Sometimes the people of the court may ask a question in a funny way or a way that you do not understand, it is okay to let them know that you do not understand and maybe they can ask it a different way.

If you are being asked to speak and you feel that you need a break. Ask for it. It is important that you feel as comfortable as you can. The judge and your attorney are there to make sure you feel comfortable.

BE BRAVE
— BE STRONG —
BE YOU

What are some of your worries about court?

A blank spiral notebook page with a black border and a spiral binding at the top. The page is empty and intended for writing.

Who are some of your trusted grownups you can talk to?

A blank spiral notebook page with a black border and a spiral binding at the top. The page is empty and intended for writing.



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