

What happens
in court?



Activity book for children and youth going to court

Hi, my name is Kaya,
and this is my friend Lily.

Hi, my name is _____
Fill in your name

Nice to meet you! We have been to court before and
we want to share our experience with you.

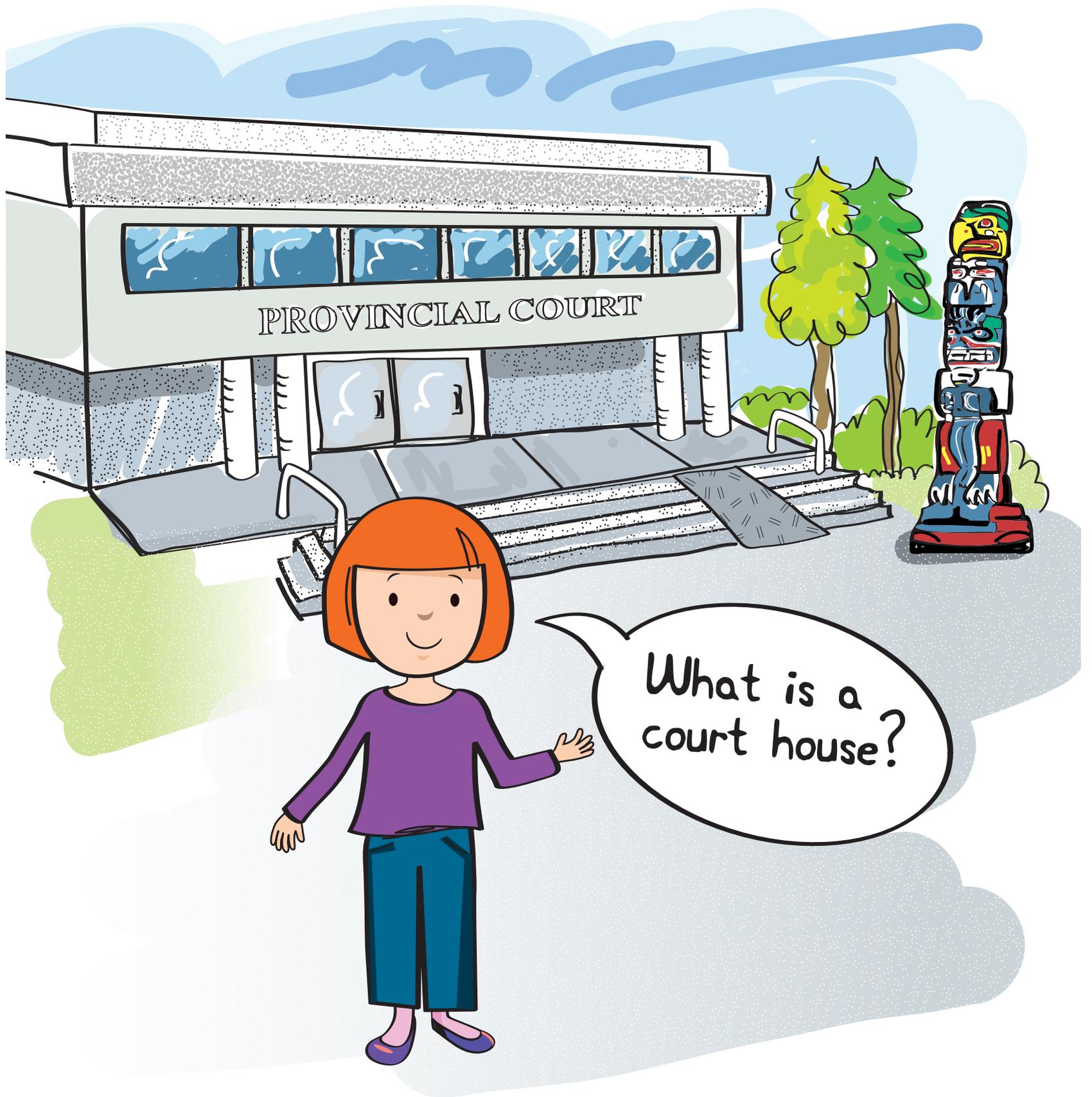
Let's explore our job in court, it is a very important job!
Our job in court is to tell the Judge about something that happened.

Maybe it is something that happened to you or something that you saw.

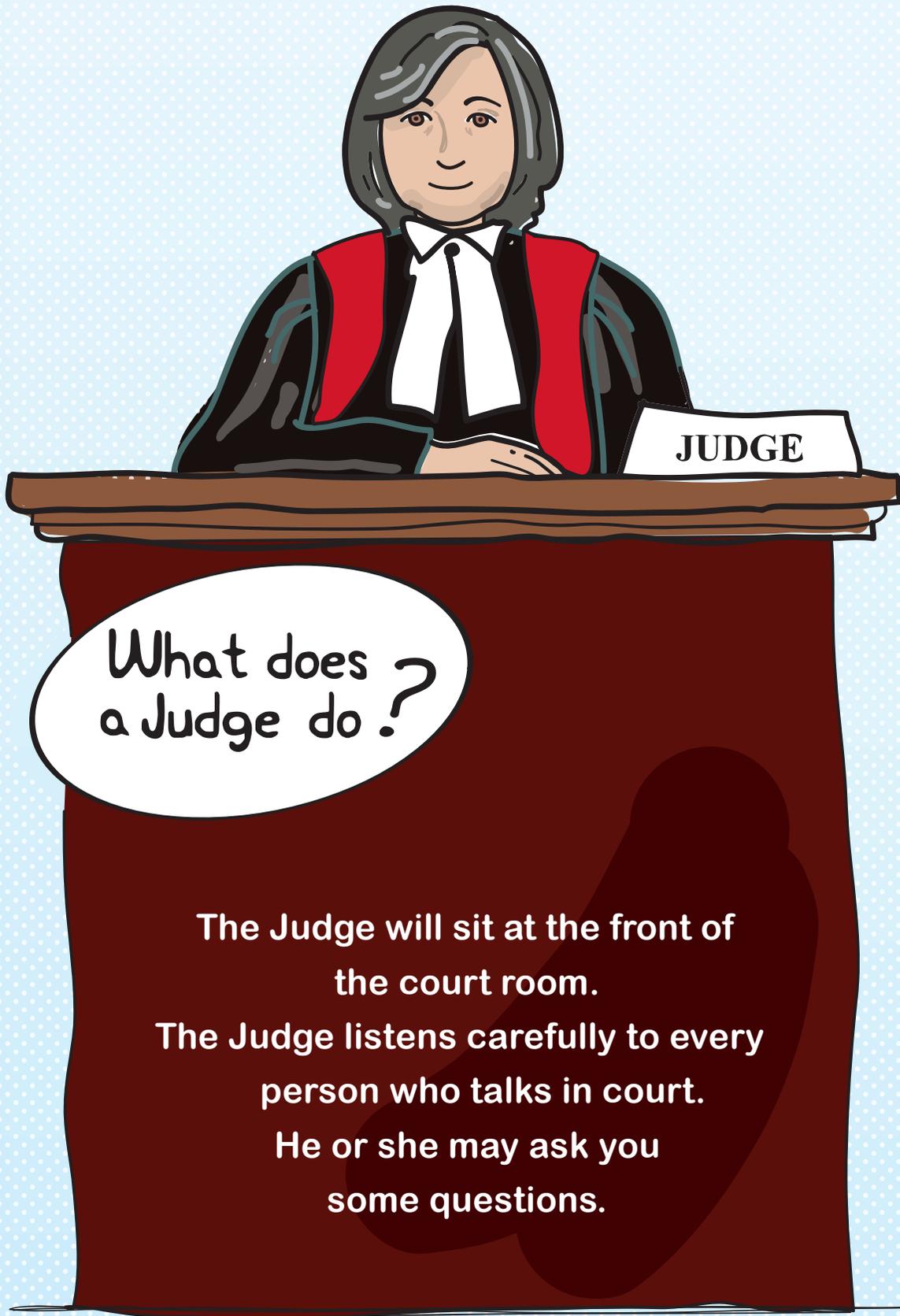
Telling the Judge about it makes you a witness.

By reading this book,
you will learn about being a witness.





The courthouse is a place where witnesses come to tell the Judge about something that happened to them or something that they saw.



What does the
Crown Counsel do?



**Crown Counsel is a lawyer who will ask you questions.
When Crown Counsel asks you questions in the courtroom,
the Judge will listen carefully to your answers.**

**You may hear the lawyers call each other “my friend.”
Crown Counsel and Defence Counsel often refer to each other
as “my friend”, this is a sign of respect in the courtroom.**



Your Victim Service worker will explain what happens in court and answer any questions you may have.

Your Victim Service worker can help you feel safe and comfortable when you come to court.



The Court Clerk makes sure that everything in court is recorded and helps the Judge with court documents.

The Sheriff is responsible for keeping everyone in the courtroom safe.

What is a
Defence Counsel's
job?



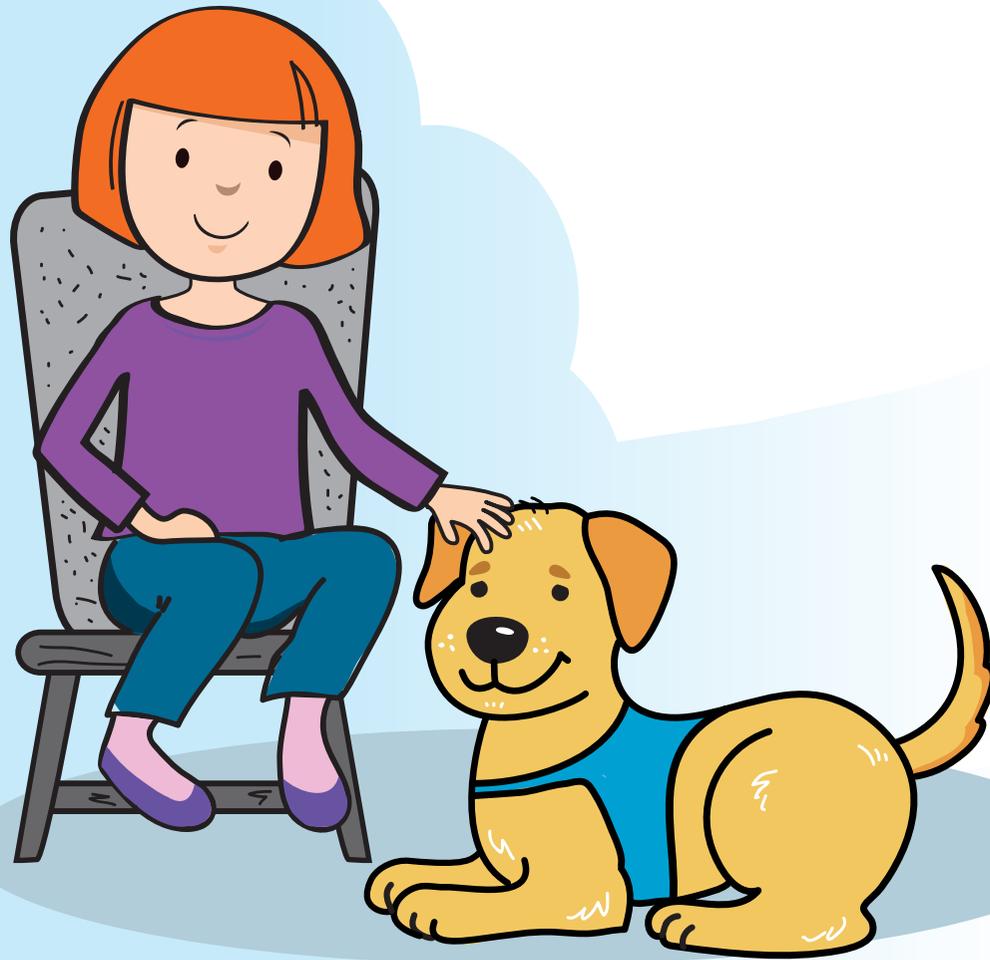
**Defence Counsel is the lawyer for the accused.
The Defence Counsel will ask you questions
about what happened to you or what you saw.**

The accused is the person who has been charged by Crown Counsel with doing something wrong and breaking the law.

The accused must be in court to hear the evidence by all the witnesses and be present when the Judge decides whether they are guilty or not guilty.

Who is the Accused?



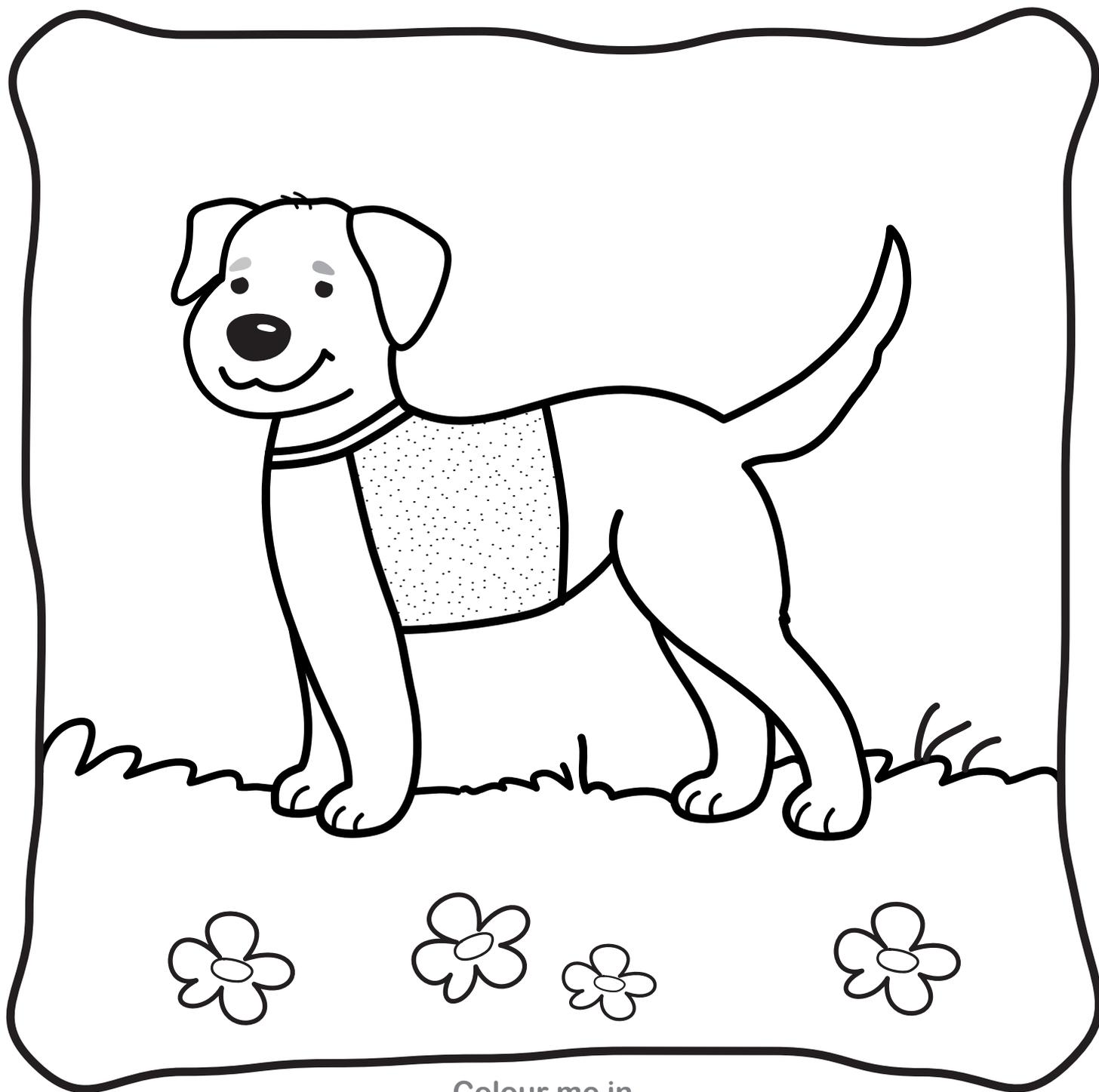


Your job as a witness

- Listen carefully and take your time to answer the questions.
- If you don't understand a question, it is okay for you to tell the Judge.
- If you are not sure about the answer to a question, it is okay for you to tell the Judge.
- If you don't agree with what someone says, tell the Judge that you don't agree.

What happens in court

- Crown Counsel will ask you questions.
- Defence Counsel will ask you questions.
- The Judge will let you know when you are done.



Colour me in

Accredited Facility Dog

In some cases, an accredited facility dog may accompany a witness to court. The dog is a highly trained professional.

Testimonial Aid

Testimonial aids make it easier for witnesses to testify in court.

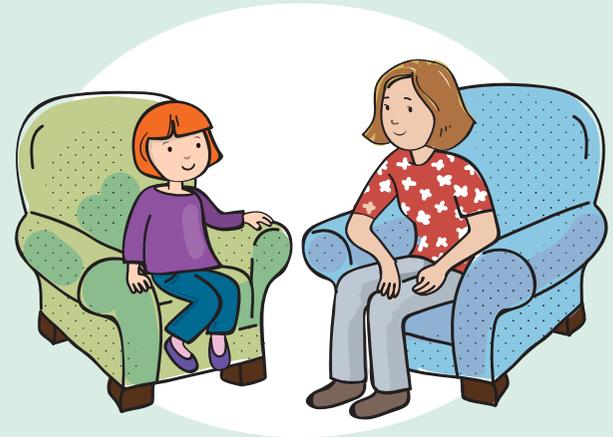
Young witnesses can often testify outside the courtroom by closed-circuit TV or inside the courtroom.

Young victims and witnesses can often testify inside the courtroom but behind a screen which would allow them not to see the accused.

Young victims and witnesses can often have a support person with them while they testify.

You may have talked to the police about what happened to you or what you saw. If the police recorded you on a video camera, the video may be played in court.

You would still have to go to court, watch the video, and answer questions about it.





After the Judge says you are done, you have completed your important job.

The Judge's Job After Court

The Judge listens to all the witnesses and decides if there is enough evidence to find that the accused person is guilty or not guilty.

If the Judge is sure the accused person broke the law, the Judge finds the accused guilty. If the Judge is not sure if the accused person broke the law, the Judge must find the accused not guilty.

No matter what the Judge decides, you came to court and told the truth.
‘Your voice was heard!’



Can you circle the things that shouldn't happen in the courtroom?



"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem,
smarter than you think & loved more than you know"

Winnie the Pooh

Special thanks to the committee for all their work on the court booklet

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