



# Kiddie Court Book



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Greetings!

This book is dedicated to each brave, strong, and wonderful child who worked and prepared to have a voice in the adult system of criminal justice.

I hope you find this book helpful, calming and strong. How great you are to stand up and use your voice to tell your story. I thank you and so do many other children that are out of harm's way because you took a step forward.

Good luck on your journey or Godspeed!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arleen B. Joell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'A'.

Arleen B. Joell  
CEO/Executive Director  
Community Advocates for Family & Youth

P.S. Godspeed. Used to wish someone success or good fortune, as on a journey. From Middle English God spede (you), may God prosper (you) That is my hope for you.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CAFY's Kiddie- Court Program Nationally Recognized!



*Six National Winner of the Paul H. Chapman Award hosted at the Four Seasons in Atlanta, GA. Arleen B. Joell, CAFY, Inc. (2nd from the right).*

**Largo, MD** - Community Advocates for Family & Youth (CAFY), Court Education Program -Kiddie Court- received the Paul H. Chapman Justice Award. On Sept. 24, 2016, CAFY's Kiddie Court was one of six recipients, nationally recognized for its outstanding work in the improvement within the judicial arena. This unique program teaches children about the judicial process and helps reduce the anxieties associated with adult court proceedings. Volunteers and trained advocates use a standardized

curriculum that serves to improve children's comfort and often credibility when testifying in court by offering their participation in a mock trial using an actual courtroom.

According to, Darlene Beckman, Executive Director, for the Foundation for Improvement of Justice (FIJ), shares that FIJ is a private not-for-profit institution founded in 1984 for the purpose of improving local, state, and federal systems of justice within the United States of America. At our 31st awards banquet on September 24, 2016 at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta, we honored our 2016 Paul H. Chapman Award winners. Each year, the Foundation accepts nominations for the Paul H. Chapman Award to recognize and reward individuals or organizations whose innovative programs and work have made improvements in the various systems of justice. Over \$2,550,000 in cash awards have been distributed since 1986. Ms. Beckman says, "This was a very inspiring evening (the most I have ever experienced)".

The recipient of this award, Arleen Joell, Executive Director of CAFY, spoke and said, "It was such an honor to have our program be seen as relevant and one that can be replicated across the nation. It is our hope that every time a child walks towards the witness stand to share their story; they will have had the opportunity to attend Kiddie Court. The Paul H. Chapman Award, from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc., has opened the door for us to expand and begin the conversation with so many others communities. We are so appreciative to our community leader, Tallulah Anderson who nominated our program."

Over the past 13 years, 2,137 children and their parents or guardians have

participated in Kiddie Court and survey results show that 99% of parents indicate that their children have experienced a reduced sense of fear for the courtroom, and 40% of our children testify or believe they can. This program is an age-appropriate resource for educating children all ages, and can help reshape the stigmas associated with their participation in an adult judicial process.

For more information or to participate in an upcoming session, please call (301) 390-4092 or email [courteducation@cafyonline.org](mailto:courteducation@cafyonline.org). The next session is being held on Oct. 15, 2016.

## **About CAFY**

CAFY is a 501(c) (3) victim services organization that offers programs to help individuals, families and communities survive the trauma associated with crime and receive the help and healing they need and deserve. CAFY offers a range of services, in both English and Spanish, that address the cause and impact of violence and crime including:

- Case management;
- Individual & family trauma-focused counseling;
- Weekly support groups for women, children, teens, and men;
- Court education for youth, parents and adults (Kiddie Court);
- Court companionship;
- Safe Transfer & Exchange Program;
- Community outreach and resource referrals.

## **Media Contact**

Connect with *CAFY*

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<https://www.facebook.com/CAFYmedia>

<http://www.instagram.com/CAFYmedia>

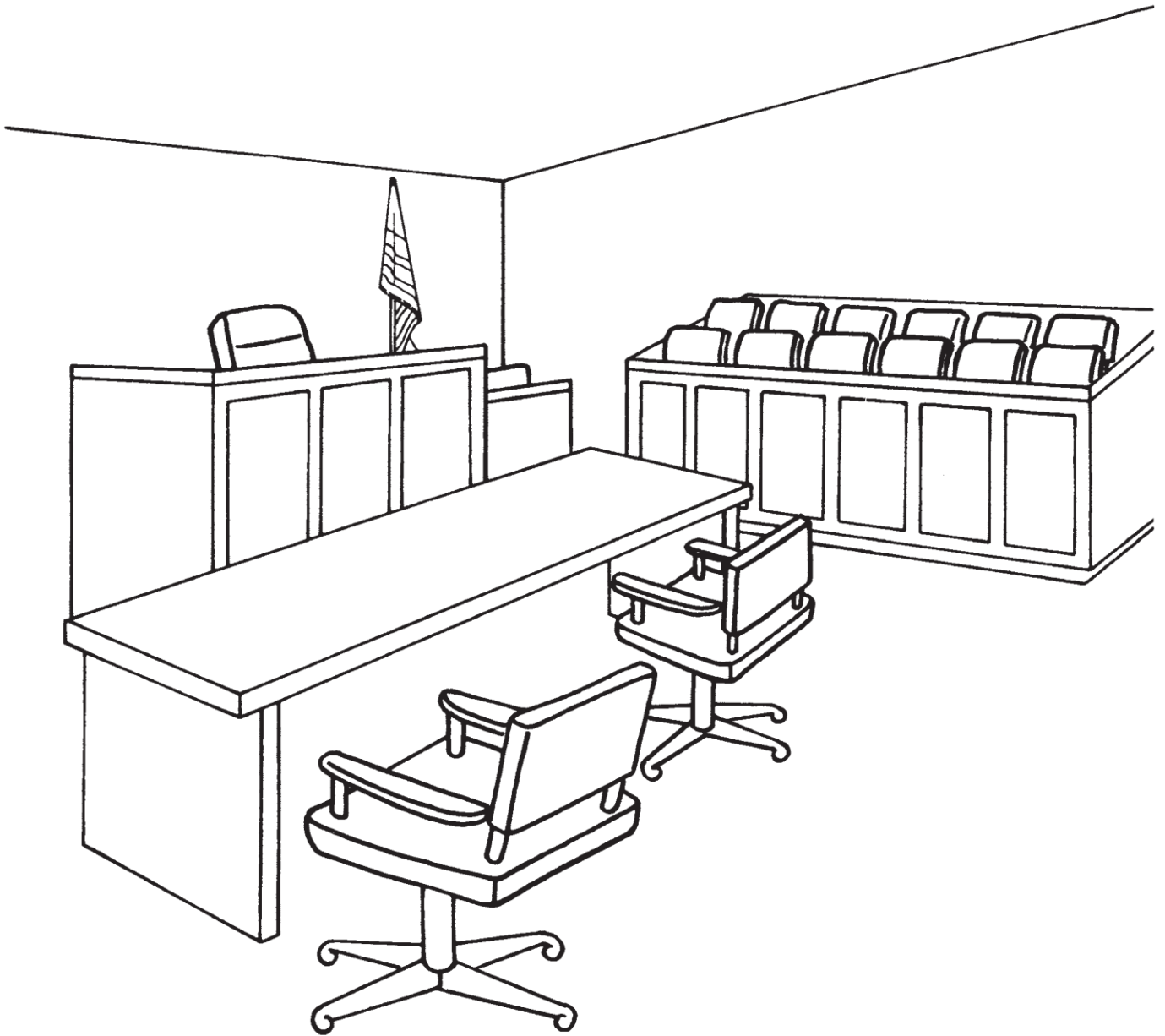


This book belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.

You're going to court because something happened that you know about and have to tell. Your job in court is to answer questions. Some questions will be about you, like your name and how old you are. Another question may be about the difference between the truth and a lie. Your job is to tell the truth when you answer questions about what you saw, heard, or felt.

The person who answers questions in court is called a **Witness**.

When you have told your story and answered all the questions—your job for the day is over.



A **Courtroom** is a special room where witnesses go to tell what they know.  
Some courtrooms look like this.





Now let's talk about who is going with you to court. Let's name them.

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There will also be other people in court who have jobs to do. This book will tell about them.

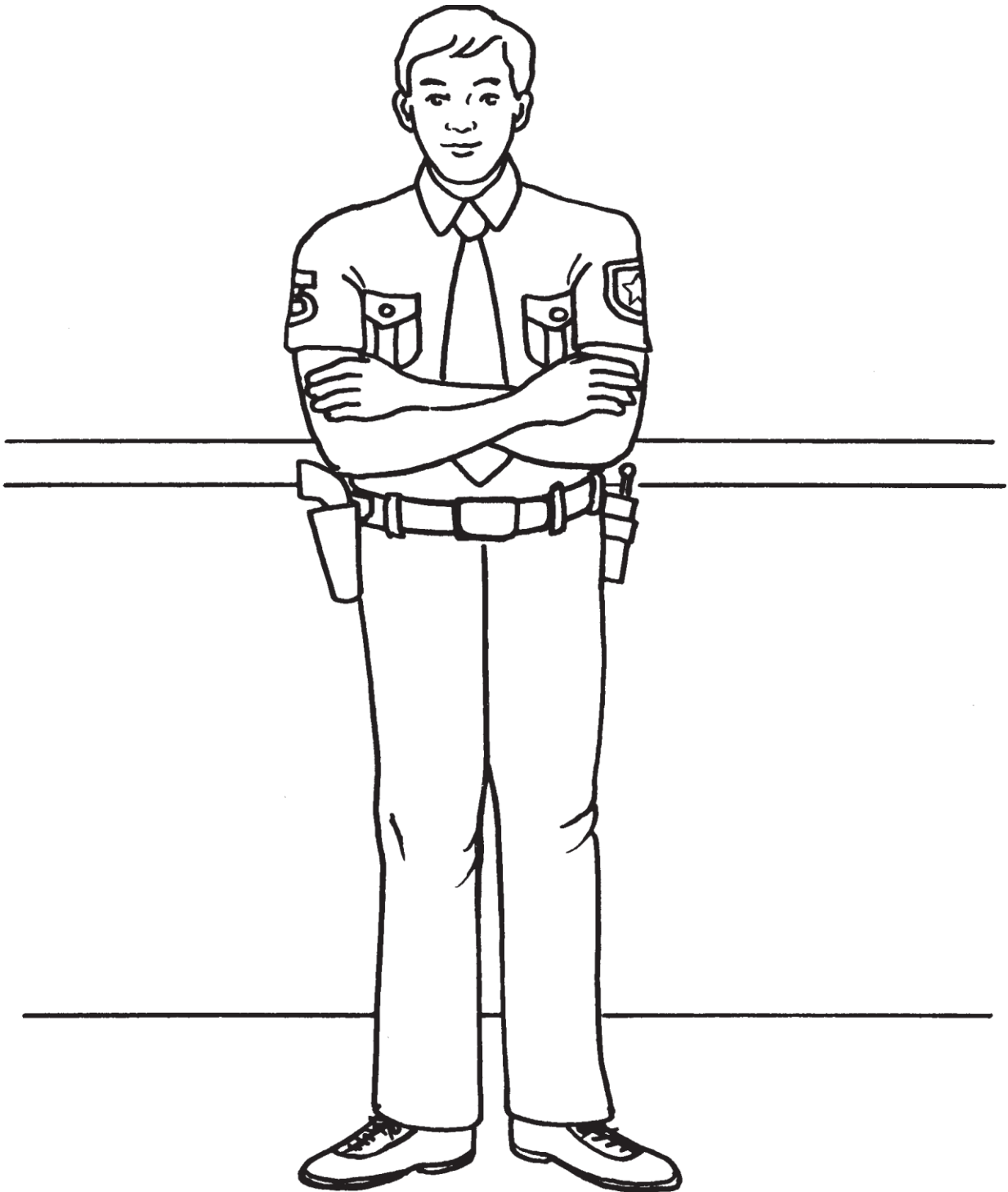


The **Judge** is the person who sits in the front of the courtroom. Sometimes the judge wears a black robe. The judge is the referee or the boss in the courtroom and listens to what the witnesses say. The judge may ask you or other witnesses questions. The judge always wants to hear the truth. If there is no jury, the judge decides what happens.

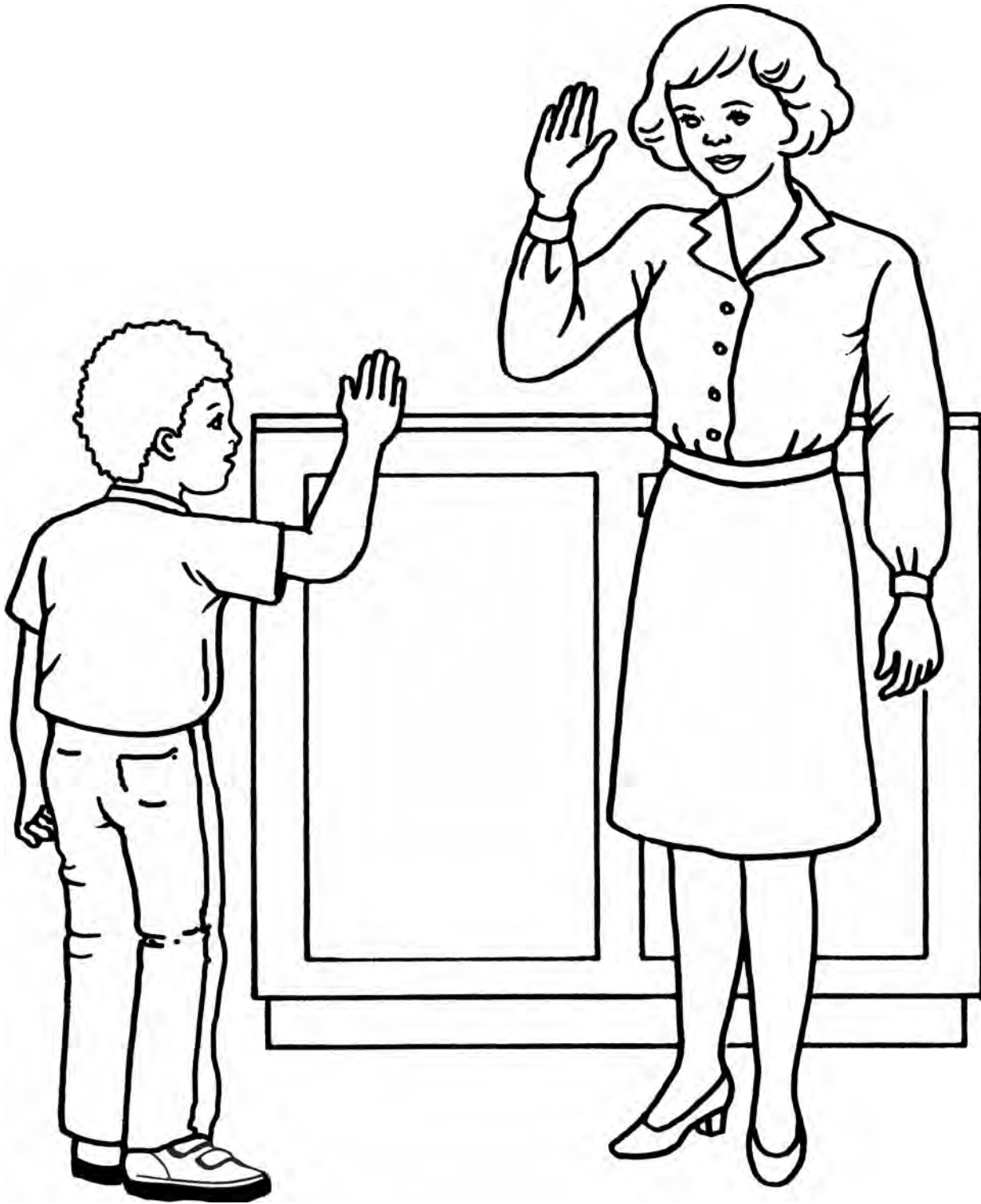




Sometimes the **Jury** decides what happens. The jury is a group of 12 people. Their job is to listen carefully to everything that the witnesses, the lawyers, and the judge have to say. There will also be 2 other people listening with the jury, these are alternates in case anyone gets sick or have an emergency. The witness tells their story to Jury.



The Sheriff. The Sheriff's job is to keep the courtroom a safe place. The Sheriff is there to protect the judge and everyone else in the courtroom. Sometimes the stand close to defendant in the courthouse.

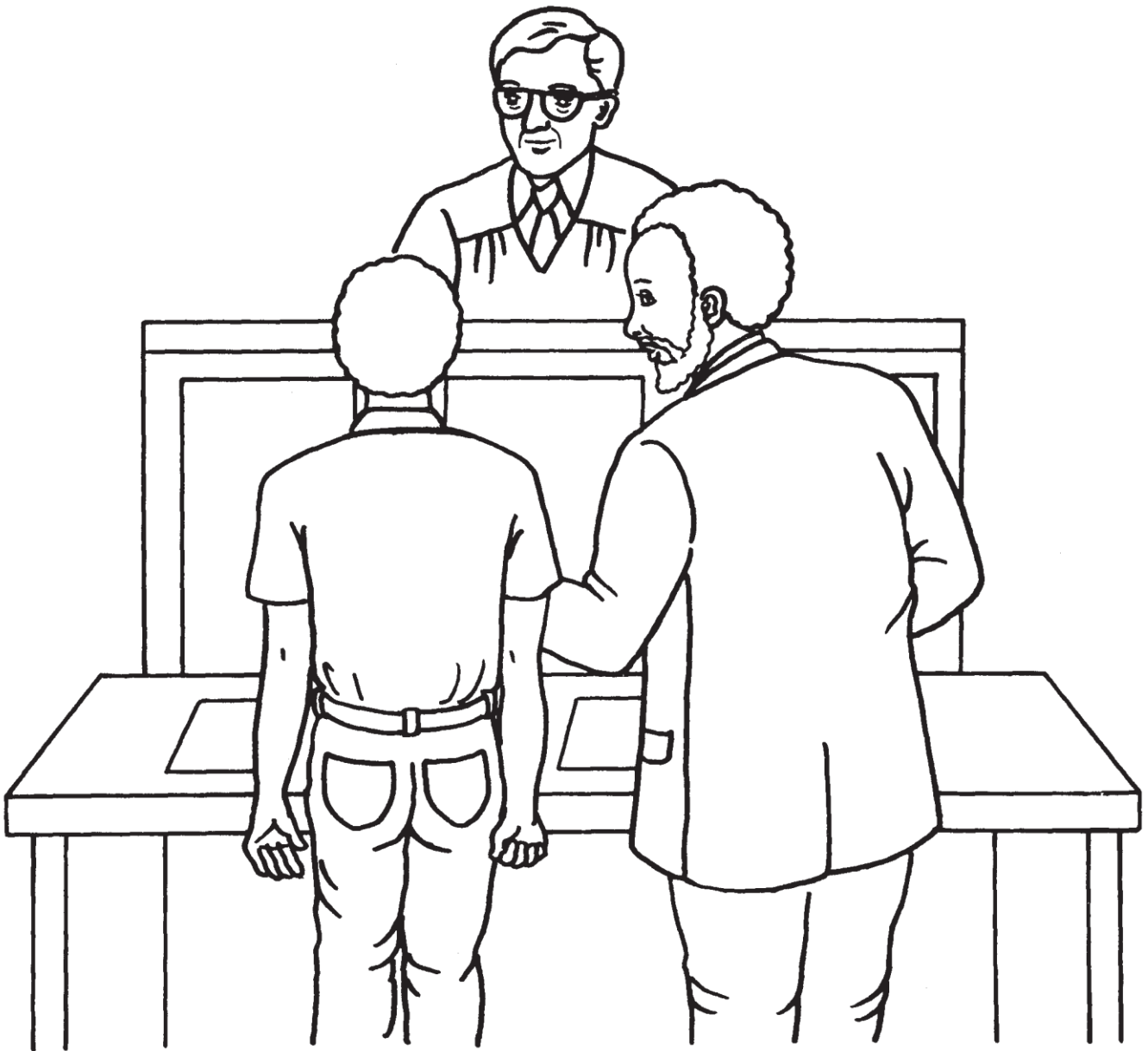


The **Court Clerk** helps the judge in court. The court clerk writes or types notes for the judge. The court clerk will ask you to raise your right hand and promise to tell the truth.

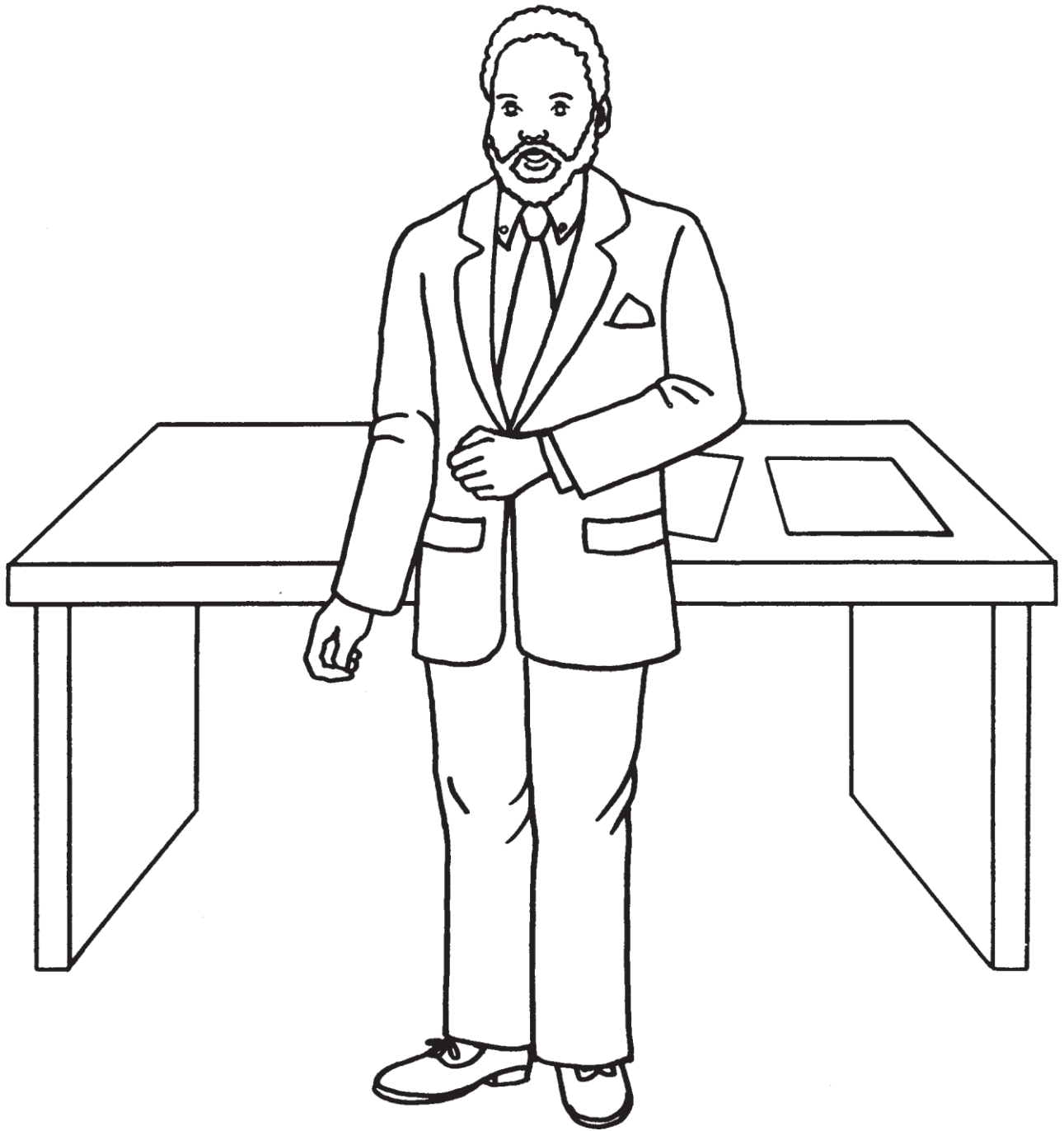


The **Assistant State's Attorney** is the lawyer who helps you tell what happened. Sometimes the Assistant State's Attorney is called a **Prosecutor**. This person will ask you questions, like your name and how old you are. The Assistant State's Attorney will ask you questions about what you saw or heard or felt.

Listen to the questions. If you don't understand a question, ask the Assistant State's Attorney to say it in a different way or repeat it.



The **Defendant** is the person who is accused of doing something wrong. You may know the defendant. The defendant will be in the courtroom while the witnesses answer questions. The defendant cannot talk you while you are on the stand.



The **Defense Attorney** is the lawyer for the defendant. The defense attorney will ask you and the other witnesses questions about what you saw or know.

If you don't understand a question, ask the defense attorney to explain it. Remember to answer all questions by telling the truth.

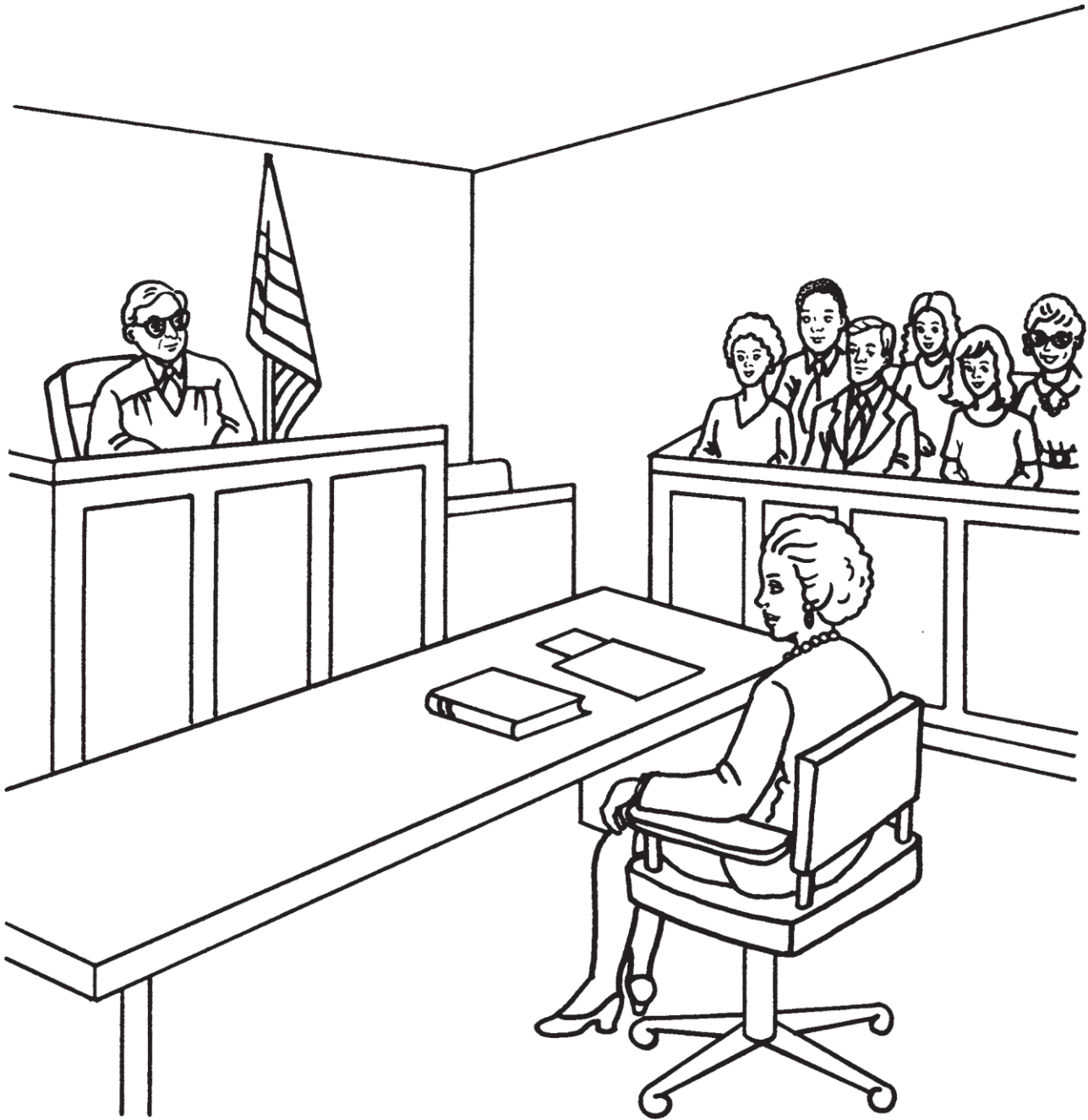




The **Police Officer** is the person who asked you questions and investigated what happened. The police officer who talked to you may be in court. The police officer's job in court is to help tell what happened.



There may be a **Court Reporter** in the courtroom. The court reporter's job is to type or write everything the witnesses, the lawyers, and the judge say. Everyone must speak in a loud, clear voice. The court reporter may use a machine that looks like a small typewriter on legs. Remember to speak loud and clear to the Court Reporter can hear you.



At the end, the judge or jury decides what happened. Sometimes this is very difficult. If you don't understand what the judge or jury decided, or if you have any questions you can ask the Assistant State's Attorney, or the person who helped you in court or your advocate.

**REMEMBER:** You have done a very important job in court.

# Rules for Witnesses

There are rules in court. Some are:

- Tell the truth.
- If you can't remember something or don't understand what someone says, say so.
- Don't guess if you don't know the answer to a question. It is okay to say you don't know.
- If you don't remember what someone asks you, say you don't remember.
- If you are not sure about the answer to a question, only tell the parts that you know.
- If you hear the word **OBJECTION**, stop talking and wait until the Judge tells you to speak.
- Tell the judge if something is bothering you, or if you have a question when you are in court.
- Wear comfortable clean clothes but dress neatly. Remember you have an important job to do.

# Questions

Most people have questions about going to court. What questions do you have? Write them down and ask during Kiddie Court or to parent or your Assistant State Attorney

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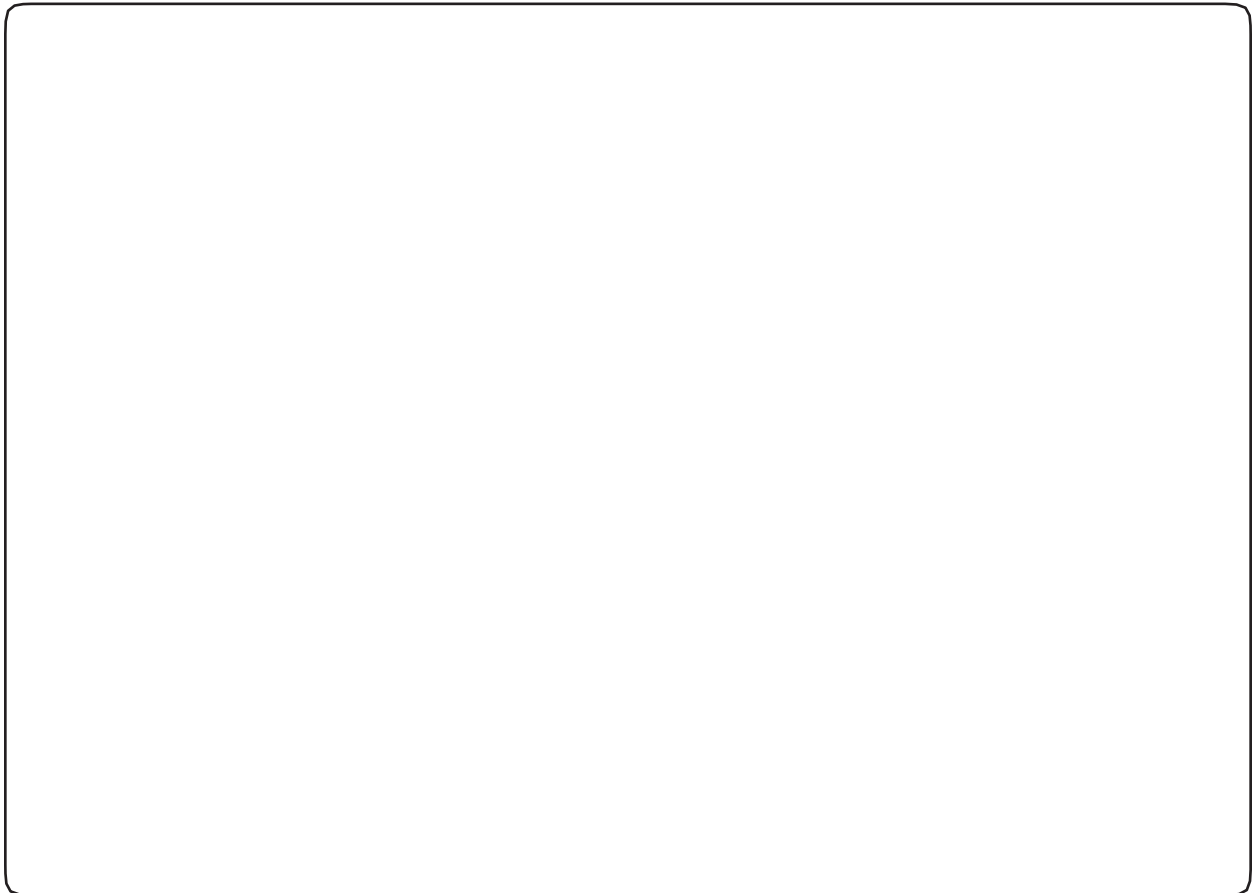
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After you see the courtroom, draw a picture of it.



# Crossword Puzzle

Word to Use.

**Apple**

**Witness**

**Bailiff**

**soap**

**Judge**

## ACROSS

1. A person who answers questions in court.

2. A fruit you give to your teacher.

The crossword puzzle grid is composed of the following cells:

- Row 1:** Column 4 (4)
- Row 2:** Column 4
- Row 3:** Column 1 (3), Column 4
- Row 4:** Column 1 (1), Column 2, Column 3, Column 4, Column 5 (5), Column 6
- Row 5:** Column 1, Column 2, Column 3, Column 4, Column 5, Column 6
- Row 6:** Column 1, Column 2, Column 3, Column 4 (2), Column 5, Column 6
- Row 7:** Column 1, Column 2, Column 3, Column 4, Column 5, Column 6

## DOWN

3. The person who keeps the courtroom a safe place.

4. The boss in the courtroom who listens to what the witnesses say.

5. Something you use to wash your hands.



# Word search

Find and circle the words listed below. Words may be found across, down, or diagonally.

COURT

PLAY

SUN

HAPPY

BOOK

LAWYER

POLICE

COLOR

ZOO

SCHOOL

TABLE

JUDGE

L	Z	H	A	P	P	Y
O	A	O	B	V	u	L
P	s	M	O	s	D	J
e	G	C	O	u	R	t
s	A	I	K	n	M	D
C	O	L	O	R	P	G
H	t	Z	P	e	G	J
O	I	X	L	V	B	u
O	D	B	A	F	n	D
L	A	W	Y	e	R	G
t	P	O	L	I	C	e

# Match Game

Match the people in Column A to their jobs in Column B.

## Column A

Witness

Courtroom

Judge

Commonwealth's  
Attorney

Defendant

Sheriff

Police Officer

## Column B

The boss in the courtroom who listens to what the witnesses say.

The person accused of doing something wrong.

A person who answers questions in court.

The person who asked you questions and investigated what happened.

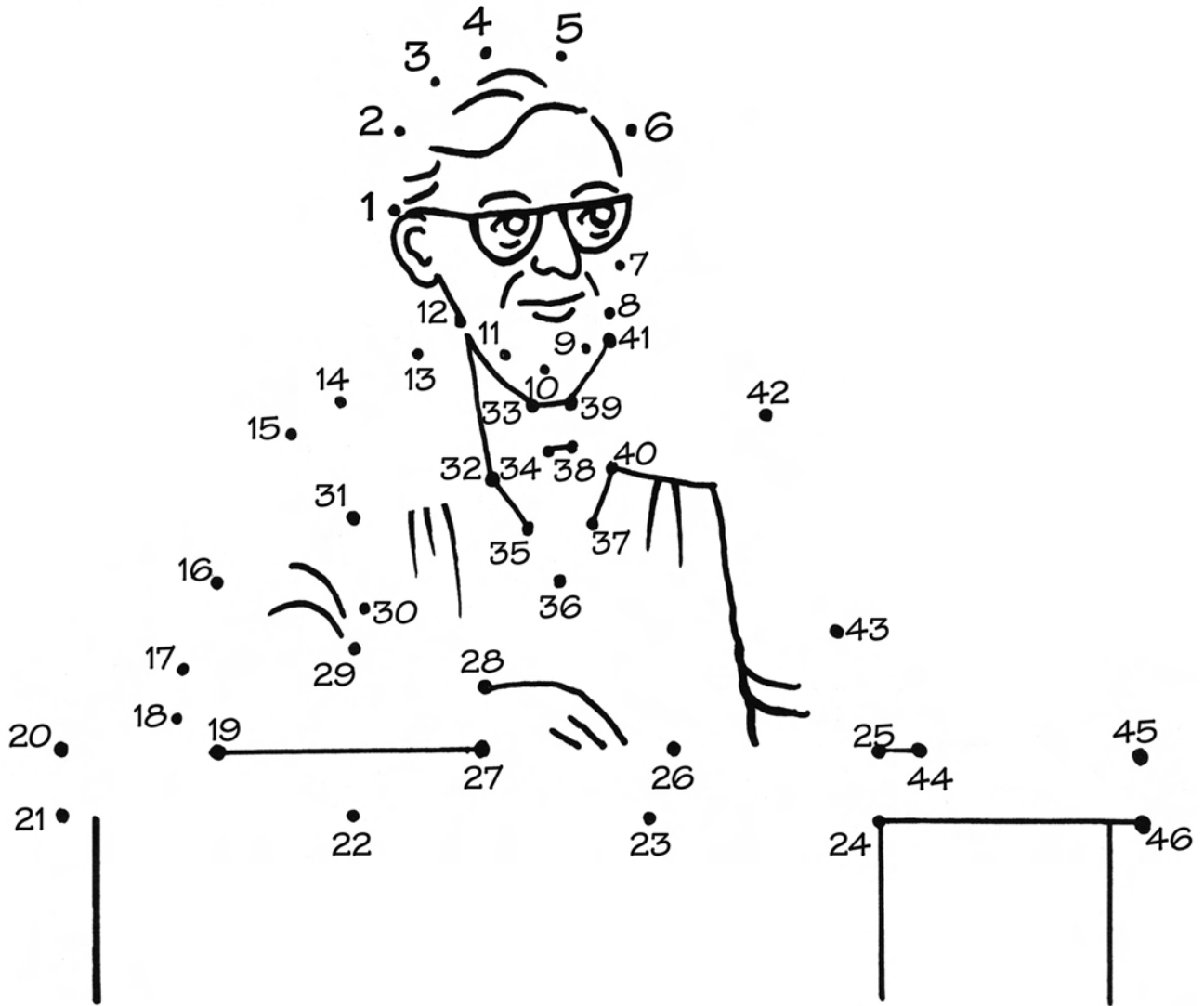
The person who keeps the courtroom a safe place.

A room where witnesses go to tell the what they know.

The lawyer who helps you tell the judge what happened.

# Dot-to-Dot

Connect the dots.



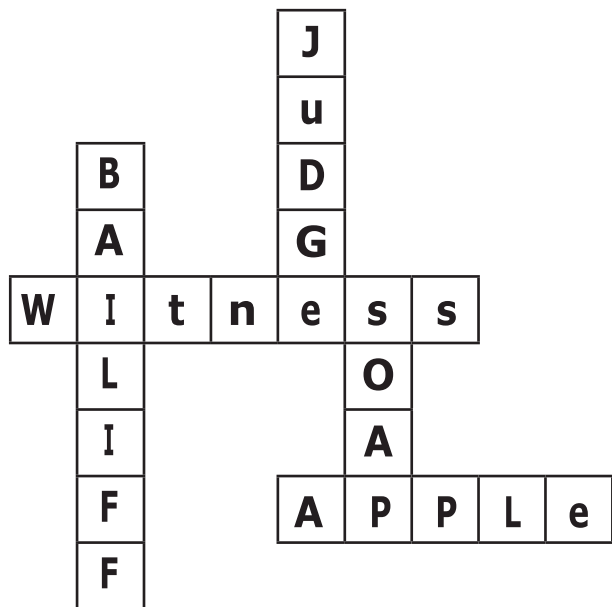
### Acknowledgements

CAFY, extends its appreciation to the many individuals, volunteers and agencies for their assistance in the development of the Kiddie Court and the information in this activity book for children.

If you would like copies or to use this as a resource contact CAFY at 301-390-4092 or email [Info@cafyonline.org](mailto:Info@cafyonline.org). Pdf. downloadable format available on request.

# Answers

## Crossword Puzzle



## Match Game

### Column A

Witness

Courtroom

Judge

Commonwealth's Attorney

Defendant

Bailiff

Police Officer

### Column B

The boss in the courtroom who listens to what the witnesses say.

The person accused of doing something wrong.

A person who answers questions in court.

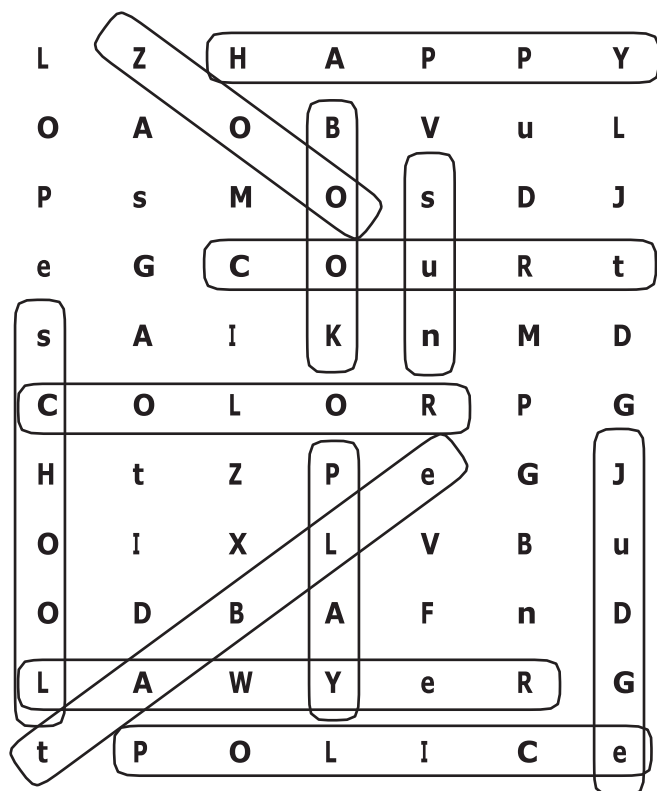
The person who asked you questions and investigated what happened.

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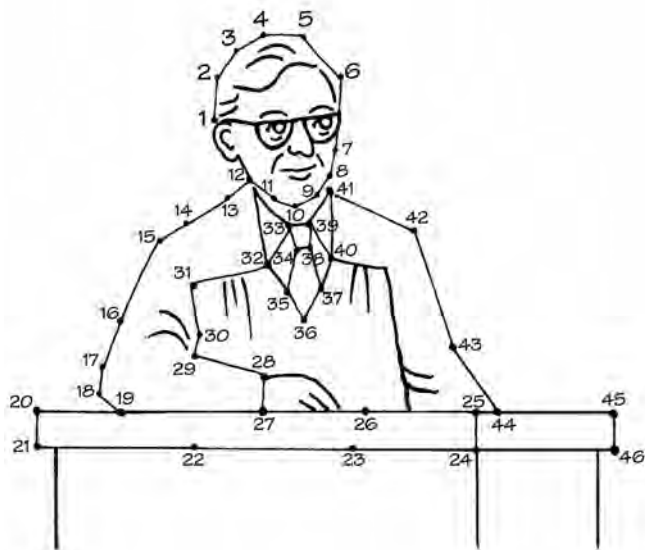
A room where witnesses go to tell the what they know.

The lawyer who helps you tell the judge what happened.

## Word search



## Dot-to-Dot



# **Your Child As A WITNESS**

## ***How You Can Help***

Being a witness is traumatic experience for most adults, let alone for children. Most people get nervous as they think about going to court. Adults and children have different concerns. You may worry about whether you child can describe things clearly. The child may be worried about having to go to the bathroom while testifying! As a parent or support person, you can help in the following ways:

- Make sure the child has seen the courtroom and is familiar with everyone who will be there. Familiarity reduces fear and increases comfort and confidence.
- Have the child attend CAFY's Kiddie Court mock trial session to help make the courtroom feel like a safe place.
- You will have to wait at court, so plan ahead. Bring a few favorite games, books or toys, and a snack for your child.
- Tell the child that it is okay to be nervous, but reassure the child that he/she will do "just fine" as a witness.
- Don't try to rehearse or coach the child's testimony.
- If the child has questions that you cannot answer, ask the Assistant State's Attorney, your advocate or the County's victim/witness coordinator to answer them.

**You may have questions, too.**

**don't ever be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.**

This activity book was given to you by:

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CAFY's Kiddie Court was developed in 2003 and serves as an aid to children who must provide testimony in an adult judicial process. This program in non-evidentiary, so current case testimony is **NEVER** discussed.

*Published March, 2005. Reprinted 2014*