

# At court

Here are some of the people you might meet or hear about in court.

**Victim:** A victim is someone who has been hurt, or who thinks that someone has done something wrong to them. They can go to court to tell the judge what happened. The judge will see if something is wrong and try to put it right.

**Witness:** A witness has seen or heard something important, or they may be a victim themselves. First they must tell the police. Much later they can tell a judge and jury. This is called going to court.

**Defendant:** A defendant is a person who has done something wrong, or who someone else thinks has done something wrong. The defendant has to go to court to tell the judge what happened. The judge will try to sort it out.

**Judge:**



The judge is in charge of what happens in court. His job is to try and make sure everything is fair.

**Barristers:**



A barrister is a lawyer who presents your case in court. The defendant and the victim will have a barrister each.

**Prosecutor:** This is the person who decides whether a case is going to court after the police have taken statements from the victim, witnesses and defendant. The prosecutor works for the Crown Prosecution Service.

## Jury:



These are 12 ordinary men and women who listen carefully to what everyone says. At the end they will have to say what they think really happened.

## Usher:



The usher works in the court and knows where everyone should go.

## These are some words you might hear in court

**Guilty:** Someone is called guilty if it is proved in court that they did something wrong.

**Not guilty:** Someone is found not guilty if it is proved in court that they did not do anything wrong. Sometimes they are called not guilty if the jury are not sure what really happened.

**Verdict:** At the end of the trial or court case, the jury give their decision about whether someone is guilty or not. This is called the verdict.