

Some people you will see in court

In this book the crime is dealt with in the Crown Court. If the defendant says they did not commit the crime, there has to be a trial. In a Crown Court trial the judge is in charge. The jury decides if they think the defendant did the crime. Here are some of the people you will see in the Crown Court.

Judge



The judge is in charge of what happens in the court. He or she will make sure that everyone follows the rules of the court. The judge tries to make sure that everything is fair.

Barristers



The defence barrister's job is to help the defendant by telling the court what they say happened. The prosecuting barrister tells the court about how the defendant might have done the crime.

Defendant

The defendant (the accused) is the person who may have done the crime (broken the law).

Witness

The witness tells the court about something that happened. There may be more than one witness. A witness must always tell the truth. No one can hurt you for telling the truth.

Jury



These are 12 men and women who listen carefully to what everyone says in court. The jury must decide if the defendant did the crime.

Police officer

Police officers try to make sure that people are kept safe from crime. If a crime has been committed, the police will investigate the crime. They talk to all the people that might know something about what happened. In court a security officer or prison officer makes sure that the defendant cannot speak to or go near any witnesses in court.



Court usher

The court usher tells witnesses when it is their turn to be a witness. They will show witnesses where to wait and where to go to give their evidence.

