

What is Happening in Court?



**An Activity Book created for Pre-Teens
By the Provincial Court of
Newfoundland and Labrador**



What is Court

Court is a place where we go to see if someone broke a law. A **LAW** is a rule that everyone has to follow so that everyone is safe in a town, city, and province.

Court is also a place of truth telling. Everyone who comes to court has to promise to tell the truth about what they know or saw to help the Judge decide if somebody broke the law or not. Because the person who broke the law can be punished, it is very important that only the truth is told.



Why do people go to Court?



People go to court if the police think that someone has broken the law.



Laws are important rules. They tell us not to steal and not to hurt other people. When someone does not follow these rules, it is called breaking the law.

It is wrong to break the law. A person who breaks the law can be punished.



At court, people decide if someone has broken the law. You can help the people at court by telling about something that happened or something you saw.

That's why being a witness is such an important job.



What Does the Judge Do in Court?

The person who makes sure that everyone follows the rules when they are in court is called a JUDGE. The Judge is the boss of the courtroom.



In some courts the JUDGE wears a black robe so everyone will know that he or she is the JUDGE. JUDGES come in all different colours and sizes just like you do. A JUDGE can be young or old, tall or short, a man or a woman.

Because the Judge has to go to school for a long to time to learn all about the law, we show our respect for the Judge by calling him or her "Your Honour".





Who are the People in Court?

Accused: A person who is charged with having committed an offence. The term is often used interchangeably with defendant.

Court Reporter: A court staff member assigned to record everything that is said when Court is in session and prepares transcripts as required. Normally the Court Reporter sits directly in front of the judge. She/He calls the courtroom to order, passes evidence to the Judge, swears in the witness, writes out any orders and records the proceedings.

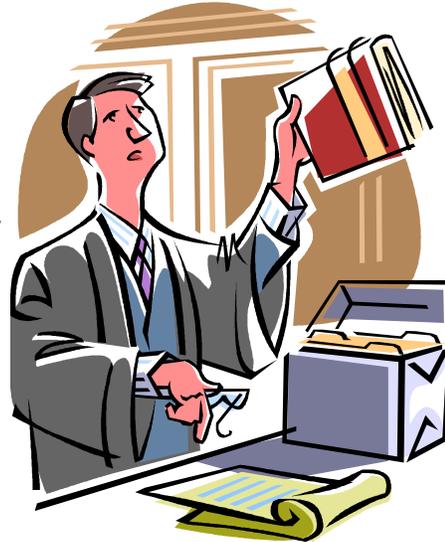


What does it mean to
"Swear under Oath"

To swear under oath
means to make a
commitment to
tell the truth.

Deputy Sheriff: The Deputy Sheriff is a person who makes sure that people who go to court obey the rules. He or she also bring prisoners to and from the Courtroom. The Deputy Sheriff wears a uniform like a police officer's uniform.

Crown Attorney brings to the Judge all the evidence against the accused. They sit facing the judge to the left of the courtroom. They are sometimes called "Crown Counsel", or "the Crown".



Defence Attorney sits facing the judge to the right of the courtroom and presents the accused person's evidence.

Interpreters help people who don't speak or understand English. The interpreter's job is to translate what is said in Court.

Witness: One who gives evidence in a case before the court.

News Reporters record events to report to the general public.



Social Workers

A social worker is a person who supports children and or victims of crime while in Court.

Color Sheriff Charlie





What happens in Court!

Can you locate the following people on the picture above.

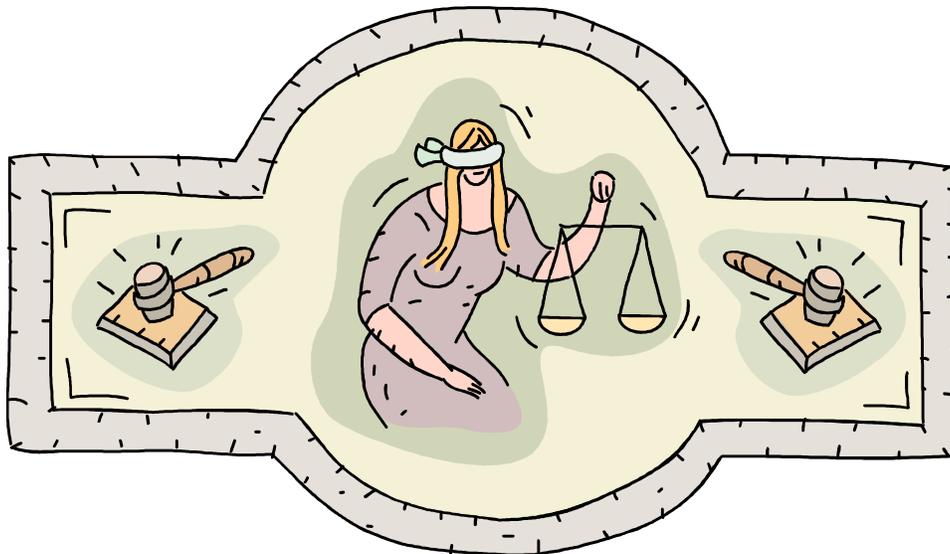
- Judge
- Court Reporter
- Witness
- Crown Attorney
- Defence Attorney
- Sheriff

Other People who attend Court are Social Workers, News Reporters, Family Members and Friends.

Hidden Word Puzzle.

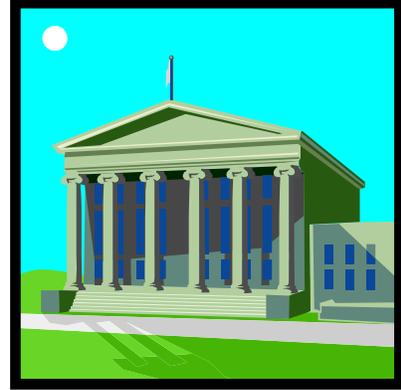
We have hidden the word JUDGE in the puzzle 6 times. Can you find them all? Draw a circle around JUDGE each time you find it in the puzzle. (Here's a hint to help you...you need to look up and down and sideways to find them all!)

A	D	J	U	D	G	E	D	J
B	C	D	D	Q	R	S	T	U
J	U	D	G	E	W	D	Z	D
U	C	T	W	T	S	K	L	G
D	E	C	J	U	D	G	E	E
G	J	U	D	G	E	O	D	C
E	G	T	W	W	T	L	M	V



What Type of Law is This?

Municipal By-laws, Provincial Offences and Crimes



The Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments each have the ability to create laws that must be obeyed. The types of laws they create and the consequences for breaking the law are different at each level. The *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* are both federal laws and the Canadian Government has the power to decide what is a crime and what the consequences of committing a crime are. The *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* are the law everywhere in Canada.

Instructions

Write "M" if you think this is a law created by a municipality or city.

Write "P" if you think this is a law that the Province created.

Write "C" if you think this is a Criminal Code offence.

- It is illegal to smoke inside public places in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- All dogs must be walked on leashes.
- No parking on the street after midnight during the winter.
- It is illegal to have marijuana in your possession.
- You can not legally drink until you are 19 years old
- It is illegal to steal a car.
- It is illegal to assault someone.
- It is illegal to drive faster than 100 km/hour on the highway.
- You can't drive if you have been drinking alcohol.

Youth Justice Definitions

Youth/Young Person A person 12 years of age or older, and less than 18, in other words a person who is neither a child nor an adult.

Youth Court A court where youth matters are heard.

Charge: A formal accusation that a person has committed an offence. The person charged has to respond to the charge formally, for example by pleading guilty or not guilty in court.

Custody: Time spent in a youth facility by a young person found guilty of an offence.

Detention: Holding a young person in custody for a period of time.



Other words you should know.



Mischief: Mischief occurs when anyone deliberately damages or destroys another person's property. The most common examples of mischief involve acts of vandalism such as breaking windows or writing graffiti on walls. If the mischief causes actual danger to any person's life, it is a more serious offence.

Causing a disturbance and loitering: It is against the law to cause a disturbance in or near a public place by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing, or using insulting or obscene language. A public place is any place that is not a home. Causing a disturbance also includes loitering or hanging around in a public place in the way of other people.

Crimes Against Property

Most of the Criminal Code is made up of property offences. These are some of the main offences.

Theft: A theft happens whenever someone takes another person's property without that person's permission. Even if the property is taken only temporarily, a theft has still been committed. Shoplifting is theft and is a criminal offence.

Robbery: Robbery happens when someone uses threats or actual physical violence to steal another person's property. This type of theft involves potential injury to another person and therefore is an indictable offence.



Break and enter: When someone breaks into a place to commit a serious offence, usually theft, he or she has committed the offence of "break and enter". The offence is considered more serious if the place entered is someone's home. To "break" into a place does not necessarily mean breaking or forcing something. If someone enters a house through an unlocked door without a good reason, the offence has been committed. It will be up to that person to show that he or she did not intend to commit a crime.

Possession of stolen property People who have property that they know was obtained by someone committing a serious offence, such as theft, are also committing an offence. The value of the property will determine whether the offence is considered summary or indictable.

Summary Offence

An offence of a less serious nature and carrying a lesser penalty than an indictable offence. A maximum sentence for an summary offence is a \$2,000.00 fine or six months imprisonment or both.

Indictable Offence

This is a more serious criminal charge as distinguished from a summary offence and carries a higher penalty.

Find the Hidden Message

Can you break the code to discover the hidden message? Fill in the letters using the numbers to break the code.

8	1	11	6	13	8	12	6	17	18
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3	13	18	15	17	17	13	2	5
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	---	---

1	20	8	17	12	5	16	16
---	----	---	----	----	---	----	----



17	7	8	16	11	5	1	12	16	8
----	---	---	----	----	---	---	----	----	---

7	1	19	5	17	13	17	5	10	10
---	---	----	---	----	----	----	---	----	----

17	7	5	9	18	4	6	5	1	12	4
----	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	----	---

17	7	5	14	5	13	14	10	5	8	12
----	---	---	----	---	----	----	----	---	---	----

3	13	18	15	17	20	7	1	17	8
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	---	----	---

16	1	20
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Hidden Word Key:			
1-A	6 -G	11 -M	16 -S
2-B	7 -H	12 -N	17 -T
3-C	8- I	13 -O	18 -U
4-D	9-J	14 -P	19 -V
5-E	10-L	1315 -R	20 -W

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words by changing the letters around. You will find some silly words mixed in. Circle all the silly words you find. The first one is done for you.

C	O	U	R	T
---	---	---	---	---

C O U R T

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

W I T S S E N

--	--	--	--	--

C N D A Y

--	--	--	--

J Y R U

--	--	--

A T C

--	--	--	--	--

L E S U R

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

S A B E L L A B

--	--	--	--	--

G V A L E

--	--	--	--	--

T R T H U

--	--	--	--	--

D U J G E

--	--	--	--

A T H O

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B U B L E S B

Youth Justice Origami Quiz Game



• Cut out the square below.



• Fold the corners back so that meet in the middle.



• Turn and fold new corners back to meet in the middle.



• Fold the square and make creases both lengthwise and widthwise.



• Turn over and insert thumbs and forefingers into the corners and pinch them together to make the points meet in the middle.



L	B	C	R
A			D
H	G	F	E
X	G	F	3

What time of day do most youth get into trouble?

A) 9am – 11am
B) 2pm – 6pm
C) After Midnight

What age are most of the youth who appear in youth court?

A) 12 to 13
B) 14 to 15
C) 16 to 17

A youths record is closed or destroyed when the person turns 18?

True or False

Youth charged with a crime will have their name printed in the newspaper

What country has had the highest rate of putting youth in jail?

A) Canada
B) Australia
C) USA

At what age can youth in N.B. receive an adult sentence?

A) 14
B) 15
C) 16

Youth charged with a crime will have their name printed in the newspaper

True or False

Youth charged with a crime will have their name printed in the newspaper

True or False

What is the most common type of youth crime?

A) Drugs
B) Murder
C) Theft

Youth charged with a crime will have their name printed in the newspaper

True or False

www.youthjusticenb.ca

Answer Key

What type of Law is this?

P, M, M, C, M, C, C, P, C

Find the Hidden Message.

I am going to court to be a witness. This means I have to tell the Judge and the people in court what I saw.

Word Scramble

Witness, Candy, Jury, Cat, Rules, Baseball, Gavel, Truth, Judge, Oath, Bubbles.



The figure holding the scales of justice goes by many names; the most popular is Lady Justice or the Scales of Justice. She represents fairness and balance and the sword represents power for the enforcement of justice. Lady Justice is often shown blindfolded to show that justice is not subject to influence.