



ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

Going to Court

Elementary School Lesson

Many judges in Illinois open their courtrooms to student groups and take the time to discuss what happens when people come to court. This discussion guide can help younger children understand what happens when they accompany an adult to court.

Sometimes when people are having trouble, they need to go to court. Here are some of the people and things you might see if you go to court.

Illinois State Bar Association
Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public
424 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
217.525.1760 800.252.8908 Fax: 217.525.9063
<http://www.isba.org/teachers>

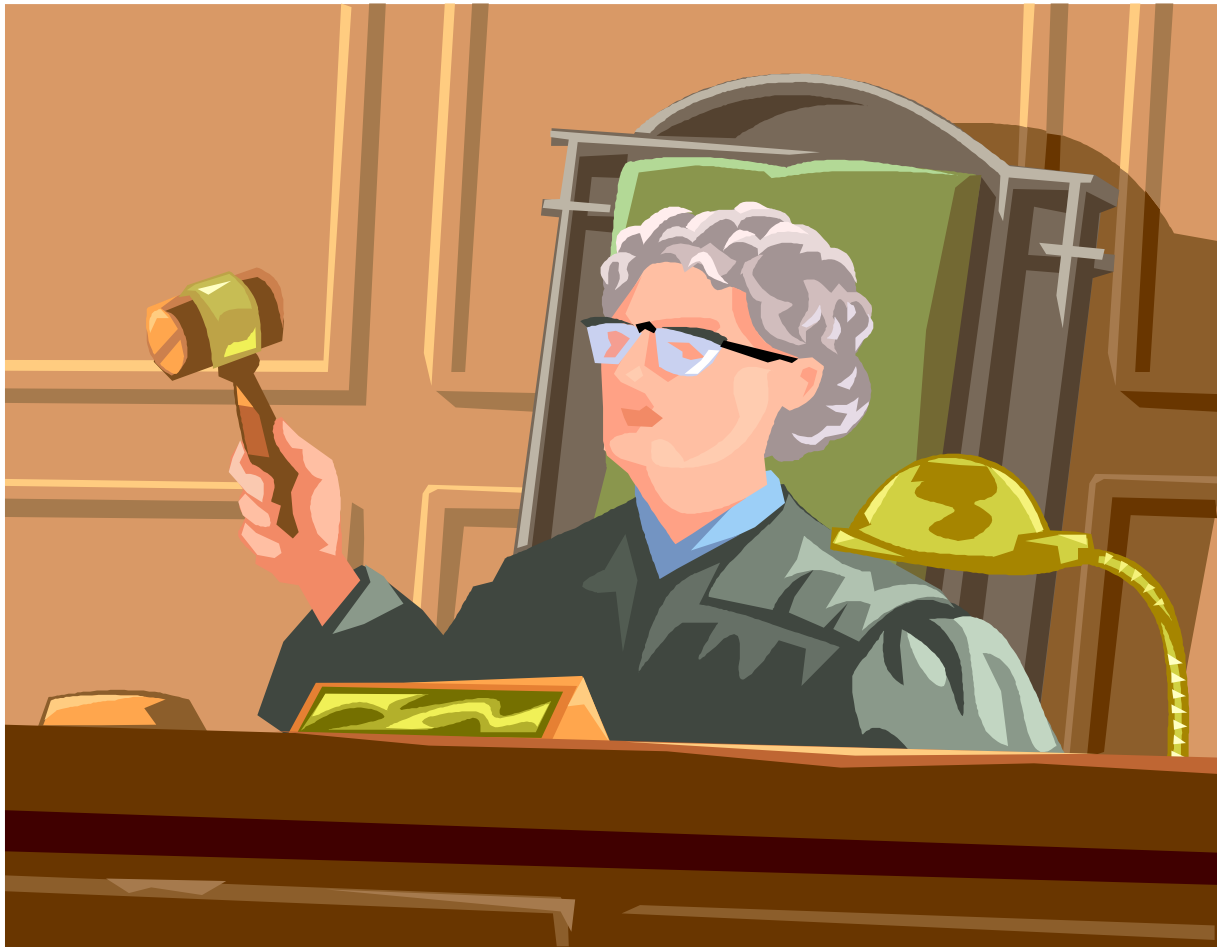
Courthouses are where people come when they need the law to help them settle a dispute. Judges and lawyers work in the courthouse.



The courtroom is set up so the judge can see and hear everything. There are special seats in the courtroom for the judge, the jury and the witnesses.



A judge is like the boss of the courtroom.
In the courtroom, everyone has to behave and do what
the judge tells them to do. Even the lawyers have to get
permission from the judge to talk.



The Bailiff may be wearing a uniform. The Bailiff will tell you that the court is ready to start and the name of the judge. The Bailiff will swear in witnesses, which means the Bailiff will ask witnesses to promise to tell the truth.



The Court Reporter takes notes on everything said and done at the trial. In case someone forgets what was said, the Court Reporter can help them remember by reading back his notes.



The jury will listen to everything that is being said by the people in the courtroom during the trial. Then they will be asked to decide who is right and who is wrong, who wins or who loses. This is a very important job.



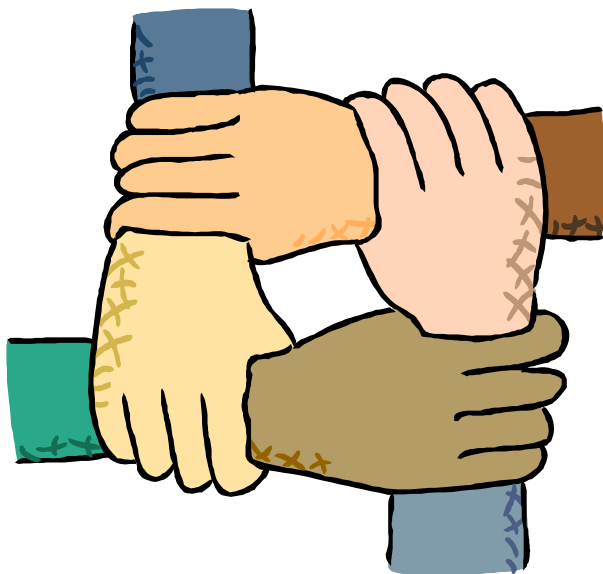
Witnesses are there to tell what they believe happened. Witnesses are asked questions by lawyers from both sides, but they need to take turns when asking the questions.



Lawyers go to school for a long time to learn how to help people who are having trouble. Lawyers help a person tell their side of the story to the judge and to the jury.



No matter why you have to go to court, the judge, the lawyers and everyone at the courthouse will be there to help you.



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For more resources on law-related education, visit the Illinois State Bar Association's LRE Website at <http://www.isba.org/teachers>

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