

# Courtroom Roles

## Chapter 3

Even though the different courts hear different types of cases, the key players are the same. Read this chapter to know who you'll meet if you go into court.



### 1. Who are judges and what is their job?

The judge is the person who hears cases and makes decisions in accordance with the law. The judge is in charge of presiding over the court proceedings. The judge will make a decision, or enter a judgment, in your case. You must follow the judge's decision.



### 2. Who are plaintiffs and defendants?

In a civil case, the person who starts the lawsuit is called the plaintiff. The person being sued is called the defendant. Normally, the person bringing the suit, the plaintiff, wants the court to make

the defendant do or not do something. In a criminal case, the person who has been charged with breaking the law is called the defendant.

### 3. Is there a plaintiff in a criminal case?

No. In a criminal case, the community starts the criminal case. The person representing the community is called the prosecutor or attorney general. The prosecutor or attorney general is the attorney working for the government to protect the community's interest and ensure the community's safety.

### 4. What is an attorney?

An attorney is someone with special qualifications who went to law school and passed a test called the Indiana Bar. An attorney is also called a lawyer. A lawyer will help you with your case in court. A lawyer will give you legal advice



by explaining what the law is, what decisions you have to make in your case, and what consequences each decision might bring. Your lawyer should follow your decisions, but your lawyer cannot assist you in breaking the law.

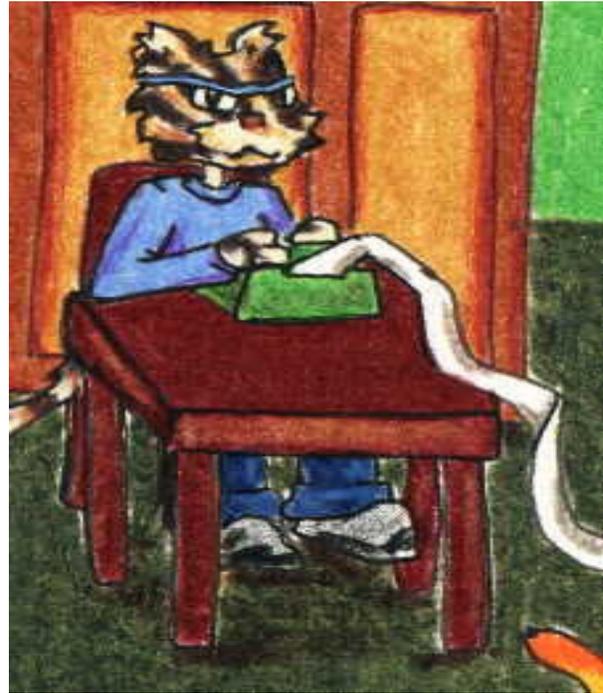
### **5. What is the attorney-client privilege?**

Attorney-client privilege means that your lawyer cannot share information that you give him or her unless you give permission. However, your lawyer can reveal information to prevent you from committing a new delinquent act or to protect the lawyer from civil or criminal charges that are the result of something you did.

### **6. What is a jury?**

In adult court, the jury is a group of adults who will listen to evidence and decide who should win the case. In cases

where there is not a jury, the judge decides who should win the case. When a jury is deciding the outcome of a case, it is the judge's responsibility to make sure the jury is told what the law is. In Indiana in juvenile court, there are no trials by jury.



### **7. What is a court reporter?**

The court reporter is the person in charge of keeping the court's record. The record is a list of everything that happens during the hearing.



## 8. What is a bailiff?

The bailiff is the person who keeps order in the court, making sure that everyone behaves themselves and arrives for their cases on time. You may hear the bailiff before you see the bailiff because the bailiff is often the person who calls out your case in court.



## Chapter 3 Sources

1. Who are judges and what is their job?  
Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3; Rules of Professional Judicial Conduct
4. What is an attorney?  
Indiana Rules of Court Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.2
5. What is the attorney-client privilege?  
Indiana Rules of Court Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.6

