

GOING TO COURT IN NORTH CAROLINA

Ages 11 and under








Lots of kids go to court, just like you! In this book, we will learn about court with Anna, her dad, and her toy dog Tigger.



Who is In the Courtroom?



Court is a place where situations are settled through the law. Kids and grown-ups go to court for many different reasons. There are many different people who work in the courtroom. Each person has a different role. Some will speak in the courtroom, and some will be silent. Some will stand the entire time, and some will sit down.

ROLE	WHAT THEY DO
 Judge	The judge makes sure that people follow the rules.
 Clerk	The clerk keeps records of papers and decisions for each court case that can be used by the judge. Clerks also take notes about what happens in the courtroom.
 Court Reporter	The court reporter types what the lawyer, judge, and other people in the case are saying.
 Lawyer	A lawyer gives people advice on what to do. Lawyers talk to the judge and other people to find out what happened.
 Law Enforcement/ Bailiff	The bailiff is usually a deputy sheriff who makes sure everyone is being kind and respectful while in the courtroom.

Historical People in North Carolina Courts



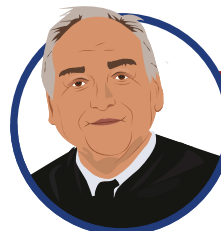
Judge Angelica Chavis McIntyre

First Native American female chief district court judge in North Carolina



Judge Larry Brown

First Black judge in Alamance County



Judge Mario Perez

First Mexican American judge in North Carolina



What Happens in the Courtroom?



There are many different courtrooms in the courthouse. The grown-up you came with today will take you to the right place. The grown-up you came with may not know everything that is going on, but they can find out by asking questions.

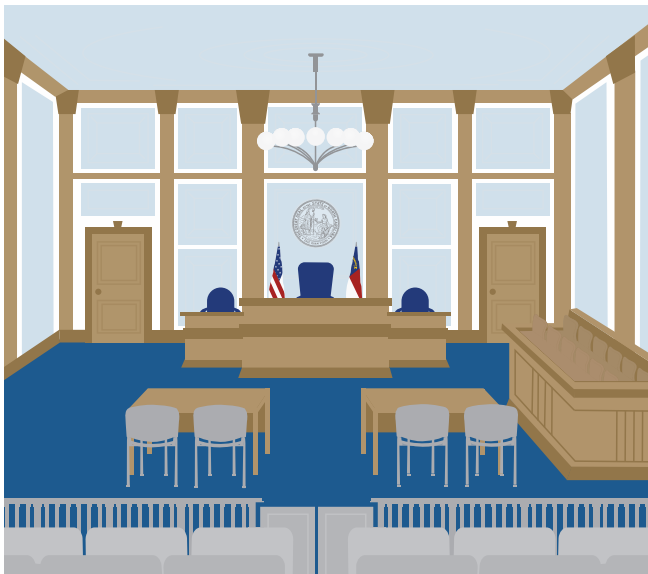
Once you are in the courtroom, there will be seats or long benches for you to sit on.

There may be a lot of people in the courtroom. Cases are heard one at a time. The judge or a lawyer will call each person by name when it is their turn.

The judge will ask everyone to be quiet and listen when others are talking. It is important to wait until it is your turn to talk. You can bring a toy, just make sure you aren't being too loud! Loud toys are not allowed in the courtroom.

The grown-up you are here with may be your parent, care giver, or other grown-up who is helping you in court.

Label What You See in the Courtroom



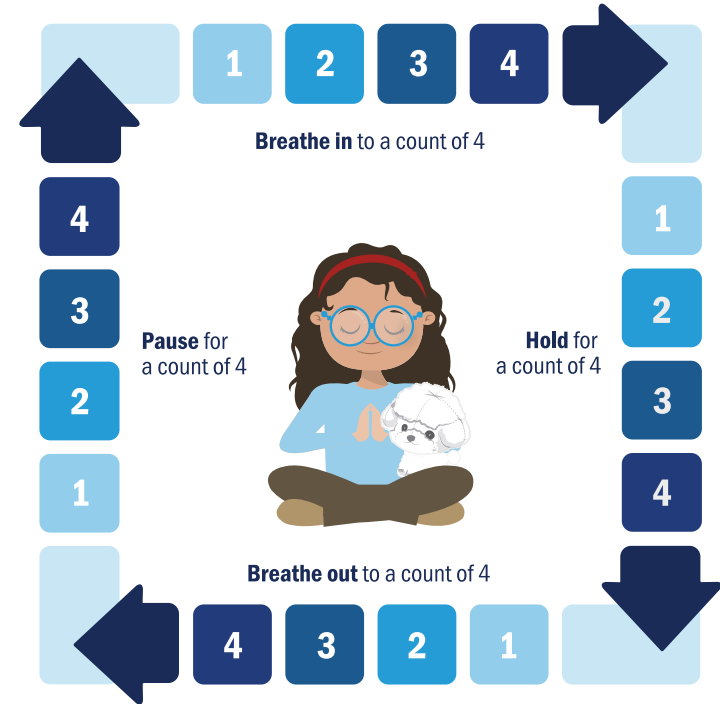
As you look around the courtroom, what do you see? Label the picture below with what you see. What looks the same? What looks different? Where are you sitting?

■ Label what you see in the room: Judge, Clerk, Court Reporter, Lawyer, Bailiff

Activities

Sometimes people get nervous in court. Below are activities that can help you relax.

BREATHING EXERCISE



KIND THINGS ACTIVITY

Write 3-4 kind things about yourself.

- I am _____
- I love my _____
- I have _____
- Write your own: _____



Governor's Crime Commission
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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