







# GOING TO COURT IN NORTH CAROLINA

Ages 12 and older



## Who is In the Courtroom?

Court is a place where situations are settled through the law. Youth and adults go to court for many different reasons. In the courtroom, you will see that there are many different people who work there. 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. Below are some of the roles that you will see in court.

ROLE	WHAT THEY DO
 Judge	The judge helps make sure that everyone is obeying the law. They also make decisions about how to best help the people who have come to the courtroom.
 Clerk	The clerk keeps track of all decisions the judge makes and keeps the papers about the cases organized.
 Court Reporter	The court reporter records everything that is said in court word for word by typing it on a machine called a stenotype. Most courtrooms have a court reporter, but they are not required for all case types.
 Lawyer	A lawyer is also called an “attorney.” Lawyers give advice to people who have a disagreement. The lawyer “represents” one of the sides in a disagreement. The lawyer speaks to the judge and questions witnesses.
 Law Enforcement/ Bailiff	Law enforcement makes sure that everyone is following the rules of the court. The law enforcement officer in court is called the “bailiff.”
 Witness	A witness is a person who may be sworn under oath to tell what they know about something they might have seen, heard, smelled, or touched that will help the judge make a decision about the case.

## Historical People in North Carolina Courts



**Judge Angelica Chavis McIntyre**

First Native American female chief district court judge in North Carolina



**Judge Mario Perez**

First Mexican American judge in North Carolina



**Judge Larry Brown**

First Black judge in Alamance County



# What Happens in the Courtroom?



There are many different courtrooms in the courthouse. The adult you came with today will take you to the courtroom where the case will be held. The adult you came with may not know everything that's going on in the courtroom, but they can find out.

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

There may be a lot of people in the courtroom. Cases are heard one at a time. The judge or an attorney will call each person and tell them where to go when it is their turn.

Electronic devices are often discouraged in the courtroom. Sometimes they are not allowed. Anything distracting in the courtroom may be taken by the bailiff. The bailiff or another court personnel will let you know the rules of the court.

The adult with you in court may be your parent, care giver, guardian ad litem, or other adult.

## Label What You See in the Courtroom



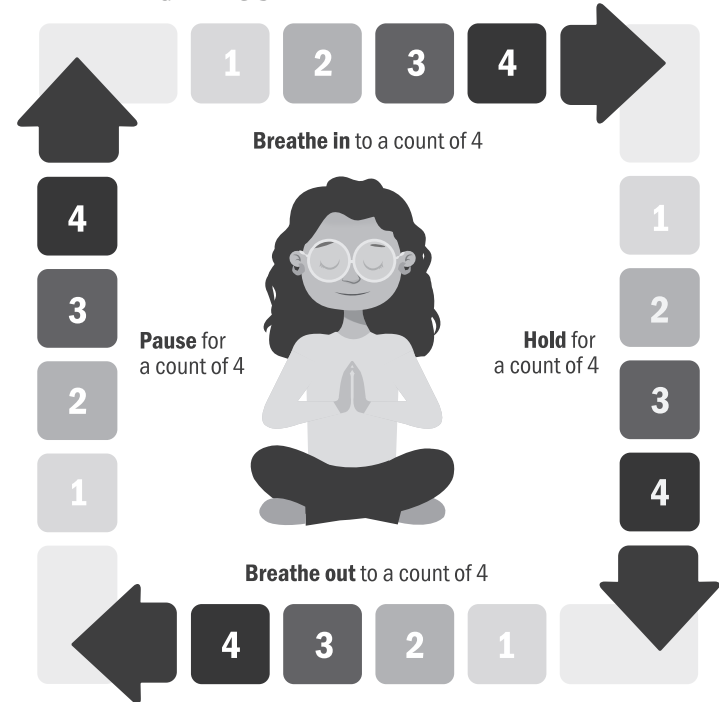
As you look around the courtroom, what do you see? Label the picture below with what you see. What looks the same? What looks different? Where are you sitting?

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



L	U	A	E	H	T	Y	W	W	X
E	W	Z	C	J	J	Z	B	S	N
Z	B	W	L	N	U	I	A	M	L
M	J	V	E	X	D	H	I	P	T
X	F	D	R	N	G	D	L	J	O
G	N	M	K	G	E	T	I	O	I
W	I	T	N	E	S	S	F	O	Z
K	L	O	B	B	Y	O	F	O	C
D	G	B	E	N	C	H	V	N	U
G	E	V	E	Q	Q	L	W	N	Y

### WORD SEARCH

Can you find these six words in the word search?

- JUDGE
- CLERK
- BAILIFF
- WITNESS
- LOBBY
- BENCH

