



Hamilton County Kids' Court

A BOOK FOR KIDS WHO
ARE GOING TO COURT.

Featuring, "BUZZ", the kids' court dog.

Tell us about you.



What is your name?

How old are you?

When is your birthday?

What grade are you in?

Do you live in Cincinnati?

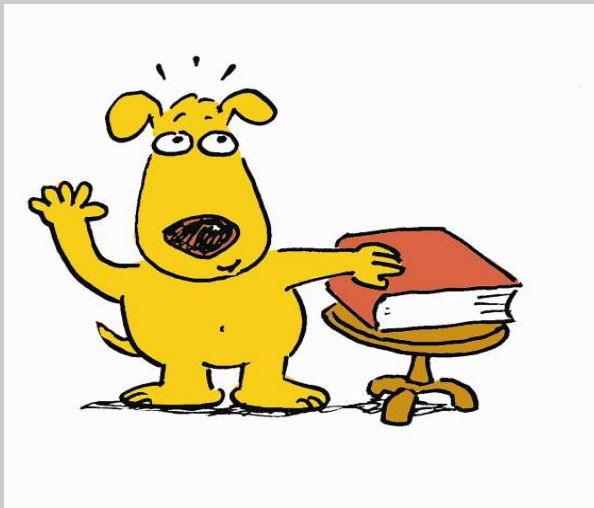
What is your favorite color?



What's your job in court?

You are a witness.

A witness is someone who testifies in court.
When a witness testifies, they promise to tell the truth.



Witnesses tell the court about what happened to them,
or what they saw or heard happening to someone else.

Witnesses can only testify about things they saw with
their own eyes, heard with their own ears or felt with
their own bodies.

Witnesses are NOT allowed to talk about their
testimony with other witnesses. It's a rule.

The **MOST** important thing to remember when going to court is...

You are **NOT** in trouble, and you didn't do anything wrong.

- The judge and the jury need to hear what you saw, felt or heard because they weren't there and they don't know what happened.

Other Witnesses may include:

- * police officers
- * doctors or nurses
- * your friends
- * your family members
- * Other people who saw what happened

Try to remember:

1. **ALWAYS** TELL THE TRUTH!
2. When you don't understand a question, or don't know what to do, ask the judge, prosecutor or your advocate.
3. You can bring something small and quiet with you to court. Something that makes you feel secure, like a stuffed animal or a lucky charm.
4. Bring something to do while you wait. A quiet toy, homework or a book are good choices. Be prepared to wait a while.
5. Bring a snack with you, or bring money to get a snack.
6. Follow the courtroom rules. Gum, hats and cell phones are not allowed in the courtroom.
7. Tell the advocate, the prosecutor or the judge if something is bothering you, or if you need a break.
8. Dress neatly and comfortably.
9. Try to RELAX and take deep breaths.



What should you do before going to court?



1. Dress to be neat and comfortable

2. Eat good breakfast



3) Get good night's sleep.



4. Bring a book.

5. Throw Chewing gum in trash

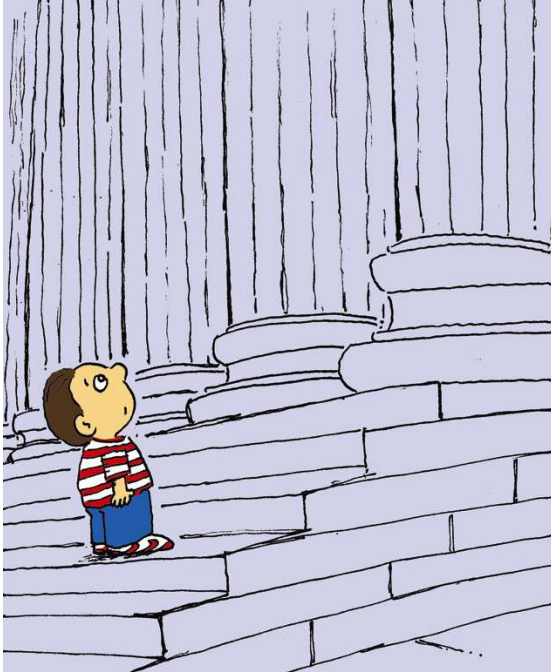


⑥ Go to The Bathroom



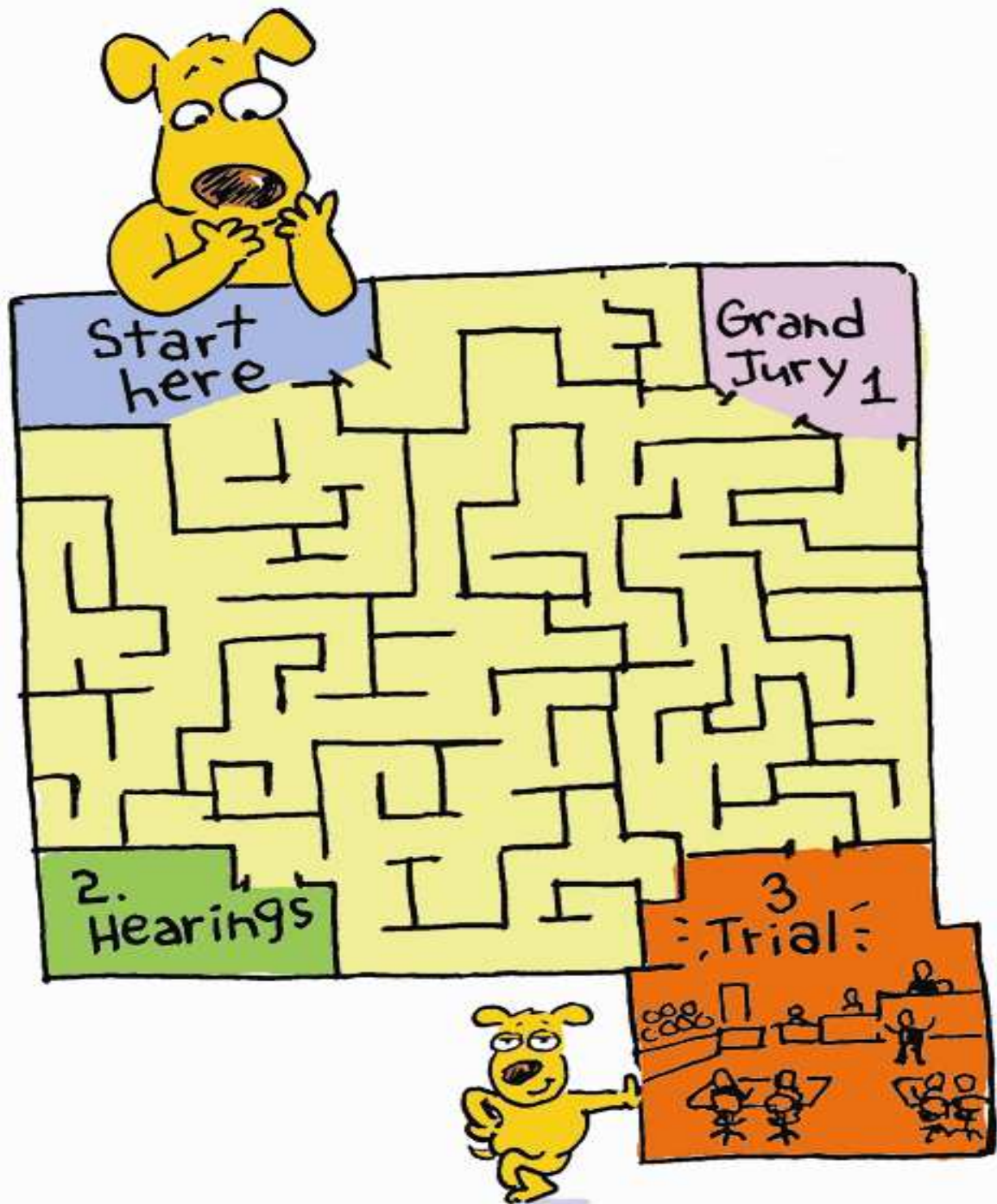


What Else?

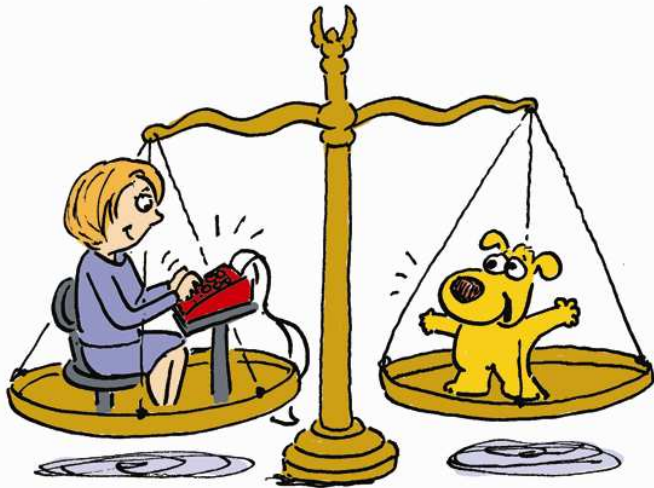


Before the day of the trial, your advocate will contact you about where to meet and at what time.

Most kids have to go to court
more than once, but
you only have to testify at TRIAL one time.



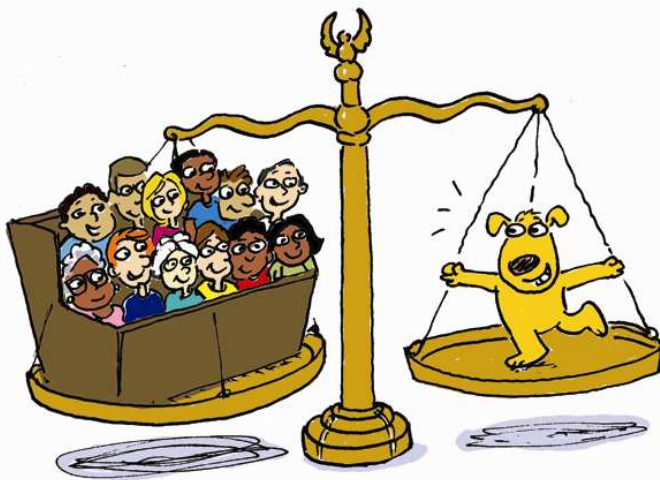
Besides you and the defendant,
who will be in the courtroom?



Court Reporter



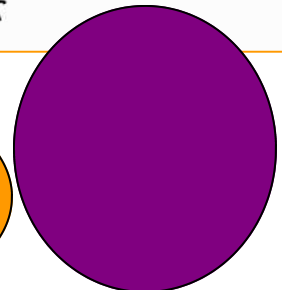
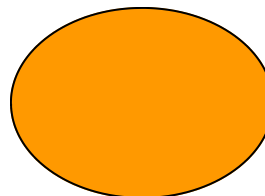
Judge

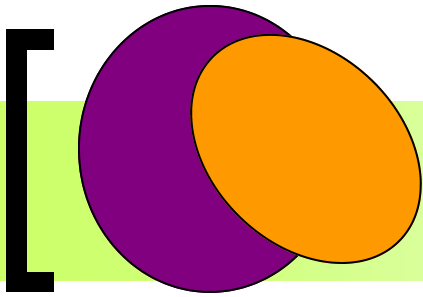


The Jury



Bailiff





AND...



Advocate



Defense Attorney



Prosecuting Attorney



Clerk of Courts

MATCH THE PERSON TO THEIR JOB.

WITNESS

PROSECUTOR

JUDGE

BAILIFF

COURT REPORTER

ADVOCATE

JURY

DEFENDANT

DEFENSE
ATTORNEY

**MAKES SURE ALL THE RULES
ARE FOLLOWED IN COURT**

**TWELVE PEOPLE WHO DECIDE
IF THE DEFENDANT BROKE THE
LAW**

**COMES TO COURT AND TELLS
THE TRUTH**

**IS A LAWYER FOR THE
DEFENDANT**

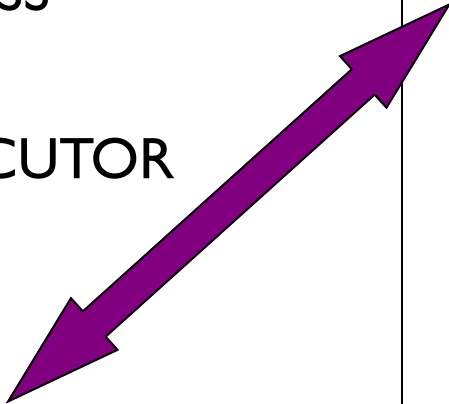
**IS A SUPPORT PERSON FOR
THE WITNESS**

**USES A SPECIAL MACHINE TO
TYPE EVERYTHING THAT IS SAID
IN COURT**

**IS A LAWYER FOR THE STATE
AND PRESENTS THE CASE IN
COURT**

**HELPS THE JUDGE KEEP THE
COURTROOM SAFE**

**IS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING A
CRIME**



See where everyone sits.



COLOR THE JUDGE'S CHAIR **BLUE**. COLOR THE JURY'S CHAIRS **GREEN**, AND COLOR THE WITNESS CHAIR **RED**.
WHAT OTHER CHAIRS CAN YOU COLOR?

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR...

Judge is? _____

Prosecutor is? _____

Police Officer is? _____

Support People are? _____

Victim's advocate is? _____



WHO WILL ASK YOU QUESTIONS?

1. The Judge
2. The Prosecutor
3. The Defense Attorney

You may be asked the same question more than once and by more than one person.

Just keep answering the question honestly.



Usually, the defendant does not get to ask you questions.



What do you do if...

1. YOU ARE ASKED A QUESTION YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?
2. YOU MAKE A MISTAKE?
3. YOU ARE ASKED AN EMBARRASSING OR PRIVATE QUESTION?
4. YOU CRY OR FEEL ANGRY?
5. YOU NEED A BREAK OR NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM?
6. YOU GET CONFUSED BY A QUESTION?
7. YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION?
8. YOU ARE AFRAID TO LOOK AT SOMEONE IN THE COURTROOM?
9. YOU HEAR THE WORD OBJECTION?

LOOK AT THE NEXT PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.



ANSWERS



1. SAY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
2. IT'S OKAY TO SAY YOU MADE A MISTAKE AND CORRECT YOURSELF.
3. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND ANSWER THE QUESTION HONESTLY.
4. IT'S OKAY TO SHOW YOUR FEELINGS, BUT TRY TO REMAIN CALM.
5. TELL THE JUDGE YOU NEED A BREAK.
6. SAY YOU ARE CONFUSED.
7. SAY YOU DON'T REMEMBER.
8. TRY NOT TO LOOK AT THAT PERSON AND REMEMBER YOU ARE SAFE IN THE COURTROOM.
9. STOP SPEAKING AND WAIT FOR THE JUDGE TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO NEXT.

Word Find

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

ADVOCATE

COURT CLERK

JURY

POLICE

TESTIFY

ATTORNEY

DETECTIVE

KIDS IN COURT

REPORTER

TRUTH

BAILIFF

JUDGE

OBJECT

SUPPORT PERSON

WITNESS

WORDS YOU MAY HEAR IN COURT:

CONTINUANCE: When a hearing or trial is delayed until a different day.

DEFENDANT: The person accused of breaking the law.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: The defendant's lawyer.

EVIDENCE: Things that witnesses say or show to the court that help explain what happened.

JURORS/JURY: A group of people who listen to the witnesses and decide if the defendant broke the law.

OBJECTION: A lawyer calls out this word when he or she wants to stop the answer to a question and say something to the judge.

PROSECUTOR: The lawyer for the state who presents the case in court.

TESTIFYING: Answering questions for the judge and jury to hear.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR THE
PROSECUTOR OR YOUR ADVOCATE?

?

?

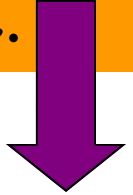


?

Use this space to write down your questions.

Do you have any special needs?

Please tell us about them here.

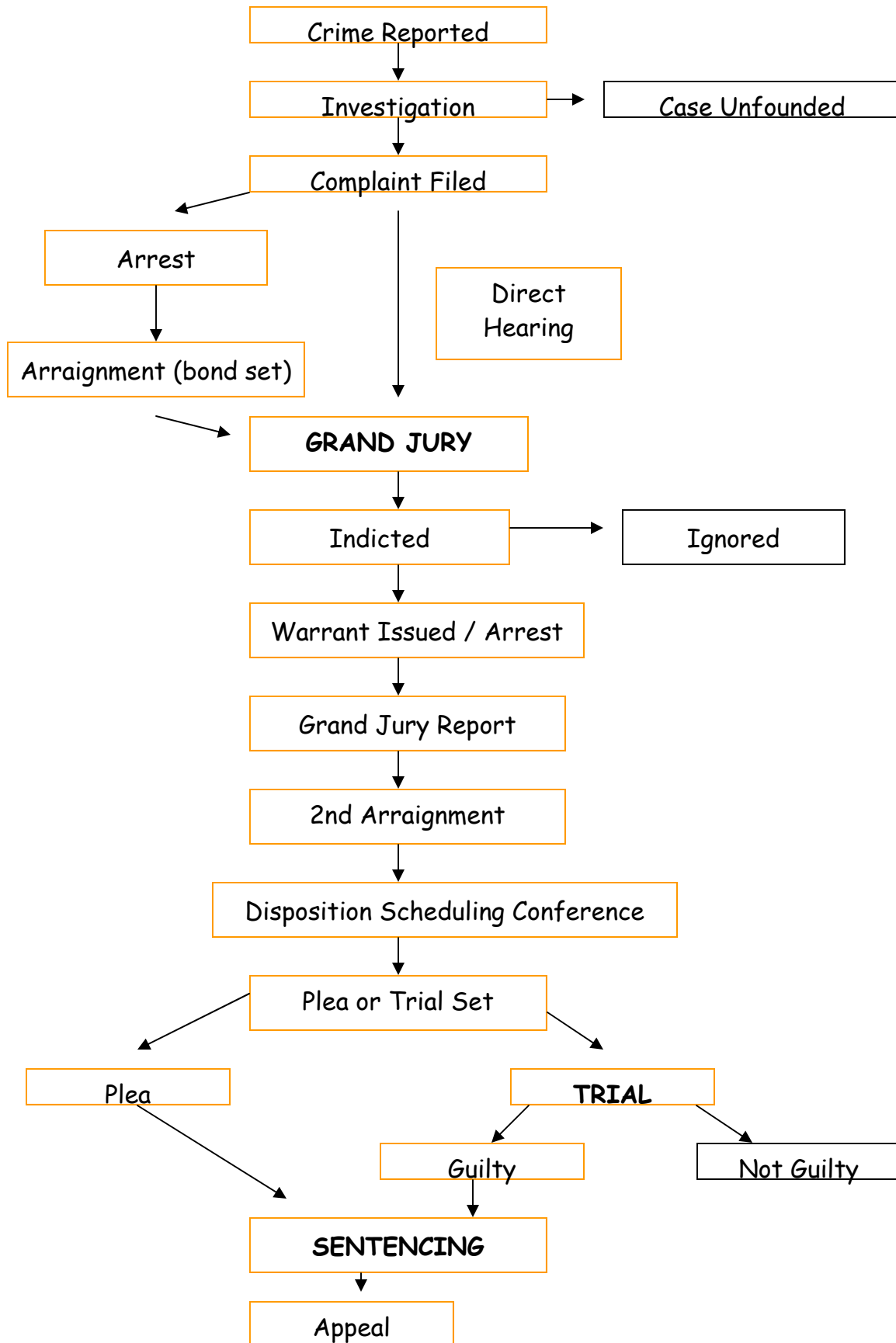


I need...

Stuff for parents and caregivers

- Listen to your children and respect their feelings. Reassure them that their feelings are normal.
- Do not pressure them to talk about the abuse. When they feel ready to talk about it, encourage them to share.
- Focus on your child's needs and keep your feelings in check. If you lose control, your child will clam up. Kids don't like to upset their parents.
- Help your child to realize they are not to blame for what has happened to them, the abuser or your family. It is not their fault.
- As much as possible, try to maintain your child's normal daily routines.
- Do not change the way you act towards your child. I.E., continue with your normal signs of affection.
- Focus your energy on your child and not the abuser.
- Find support for you, and consider counseling for your child and/or your family.

COMMON PLEAS (FELONY) FLOW CHART



Counseling Resources for Kids and Families

A Voice (The Center for Children and Families) (513) 221-4673

1502 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227 or
120 Donald Avenue, Fairfield, OH 45014

Provides assessment and counseling services to children, ages 4 to 18, who are victims of sexual assault and non-offending family members. Self referrals

Beech Acres: (513) 231-6630

6881 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45230

Provides counseling and programs that preserve and strengthen families.

Center for Children and Families: (513) 221-4673

2600 Victory Parkway, Suite 200, Cincinnati, OH 45206

Provides counseling and case management to children, ages 3 and up, and families Throughout Hamilton County (including school based services).

Central Clinic: (513) 558-5823

311 Albert Sabin Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229

Provides clinical services for children, ages birth to 18, and families.

Child Focus: (513) 752-1555

Comprehensive mental health services, including grief and loss, for children, ages 4 to 18 (if they are still in school), and families. Sliding scale fee for residents of Clermont County. Hamilton County residents welcome, but no sliding scale fees apply.

Cincinnati Family Counseling Services: (513) 922-1660

5963 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Provides counseling services for children, ages 5 and up, and families.

Clermont Counseling Center: (513) 947-7000

43 East Main Street, Amelia, OH 45102 or

512 High Street, Milford, OH 45150

Provides counseling services for children, ages 5 and up, and families with private insurance only. Clients can reside in any County.

Counseling Resources Continued...

Community Mental Health Centers: **(513) 398-2551**

201 Reading Road, Mason, OH 45040

Provides counseling services for children, ages 3 and up, who reside in Warren County. Accepts Medicaid, private insurance and has sliding scale fees.

Family Services: **(513) 345-8555**

205 W. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (please call for other locations)

Provides clinical counseling, substance abuse and sexual abuse programs, International Family Resource Center and more.

Family Therapy Center: **(513) 861-9797**

2330 Victory Parkway, Suite 402, Cincinnati, OH 45206

Provides counseling services for children, ages 3 and up, and families.

Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children: **(513) 745-0111**

4380 Malsbary Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242

Provides counseling and therapy for children who are grieving the death of a friend, Sibling, parent or other close person: open to children ages 3-17. No fee.

The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children: **(513) 636-7233**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

3333 Burnet Avenue, D5, Cincinnati, OH 45229

Mental Health Access Point (MHAP): **(513) 558-8888**

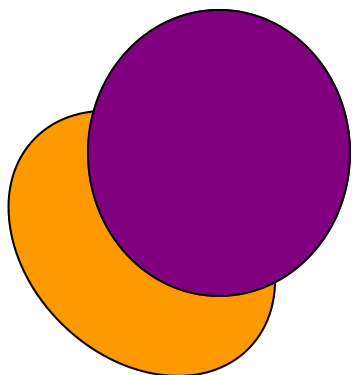
311 Albert Sabin Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229

Provides clinical services for children, ages birth to 18, and families. Court and self referrals.

Norcen: **(513) 761-6222 TTY: (513) 679-4584**

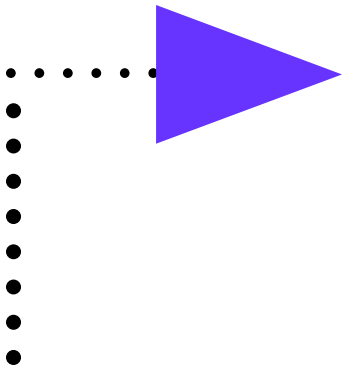
7162 Reading Road, 5th floor, Cincinnati, OH 45237

Provides counseling services for children, ages 6 and up, and families. Accepts Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance and has sliding scale fees.



Use these pages to draw or
color whatever you like.





This book is a collaborative effort between the following:

- **City of Cincinnati Police- Personal Crimes Division**
- **Hamilton County Common Pleas Court**
- **Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services**
- **Hamilton County Municipal Court**
- **Hamilton County Probation Department- Victim Services**
- **Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office**
- **Norman Aubin, Criminal Defense Attorney**
- **The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children**
- **The Rape Crisis & Abuse Center of Hamilton County**
- **Talbert House Victim Service Center**

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**Special thanks to all the agencies out there helping
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