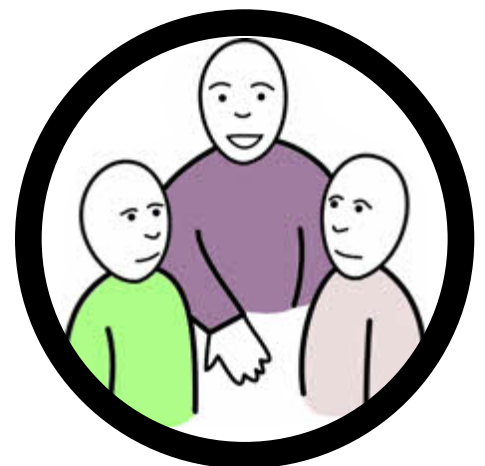


the
**EasyRead
Legal Aid
Dictionary**



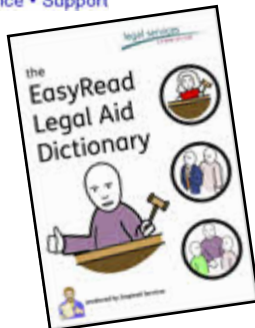
Produced by Inspired Services



This work was commissioned by the Legal Services Commission following suggestions from our Client Diversity Group.



We know many people with learning disabilities need more help and support to understand the law and the legal aid system.



This EasyRead dictionary has been designed and produced by Inspired Services to help. We have made these pictures freely available for use in related projects.



To download your copy please go to:
www.inspiredservices.org.uk/freelogin.html

The need for EasyRead



You are probably reading this because you have had something to do with the legal system.



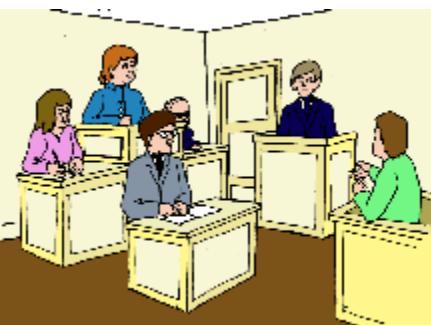
This means anything to do with the law or what the law says.



It doesn't mean you have done anything wrong or broken the law.



It might just be a form that the law says you need to fill in.



Or it could be you have seen someone else break the law and are telling the police about it, or saying what you saw in court.



At the Legal Services Commission we try to make the legal system easier to understand.



Here is a list of some of the words you might come across and what they mean.



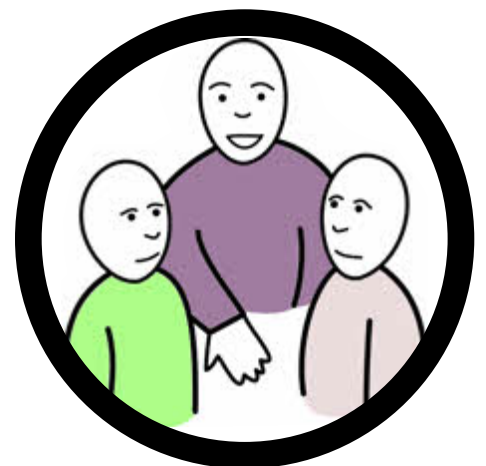
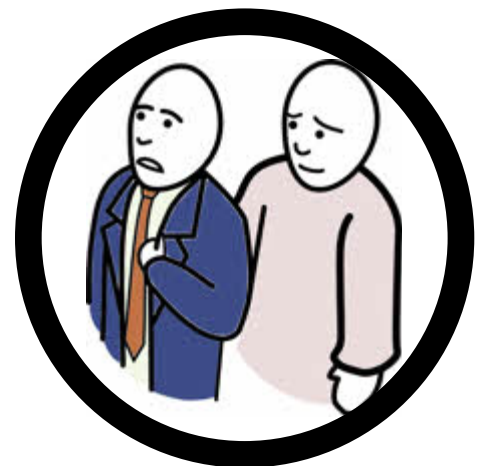
The words have pictures with them to help show what they mean.

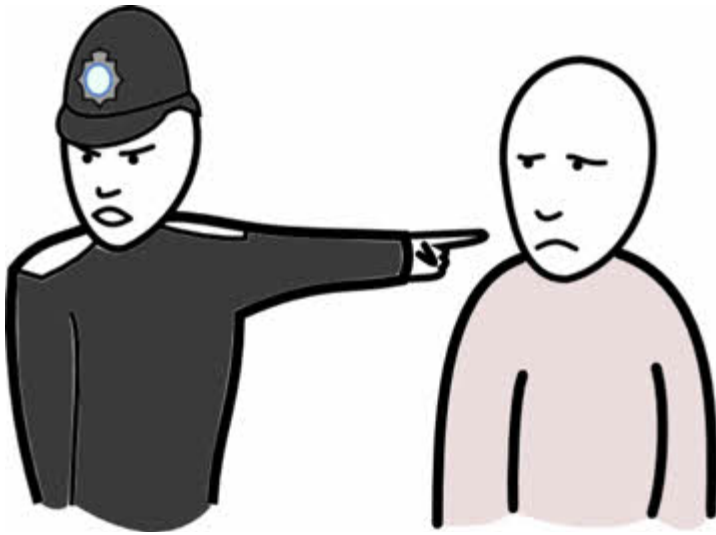


We are hoping these words and pictures will be used by others in the legal system so more people can understand what is happening.

the

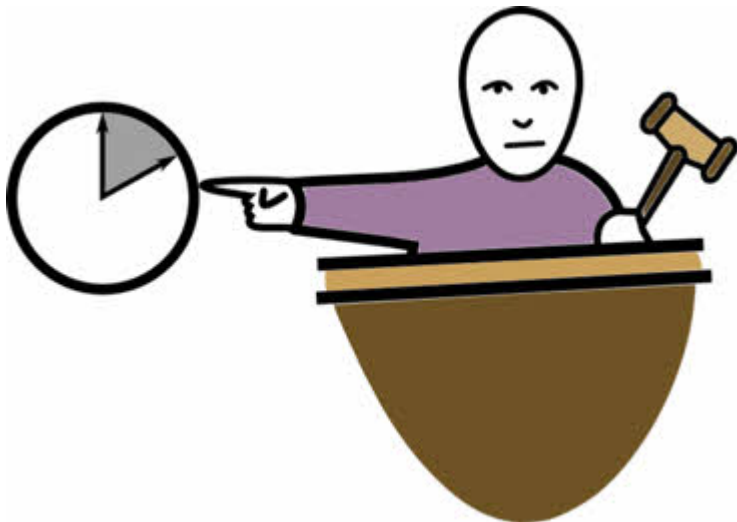
EasyRead Legal Aid Dictionary





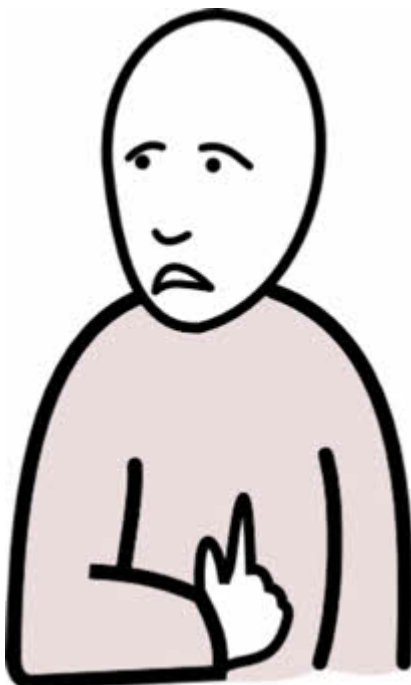
Accused

Saying someone has done something.



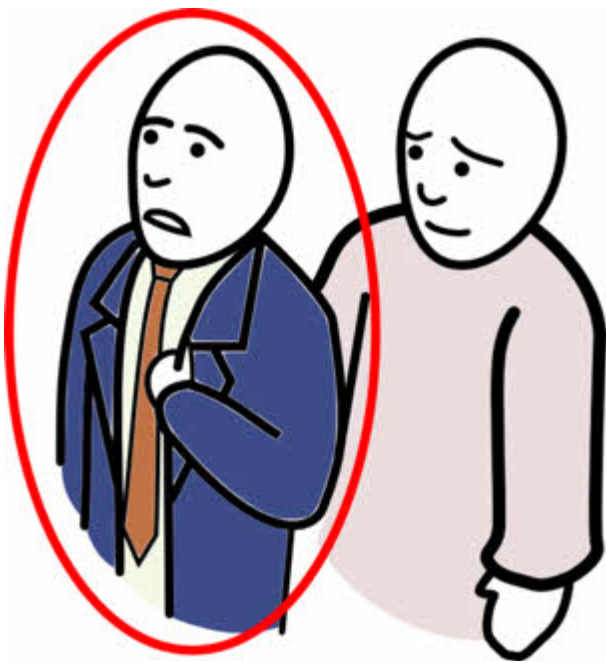
Adjourned

A court case put off until later.



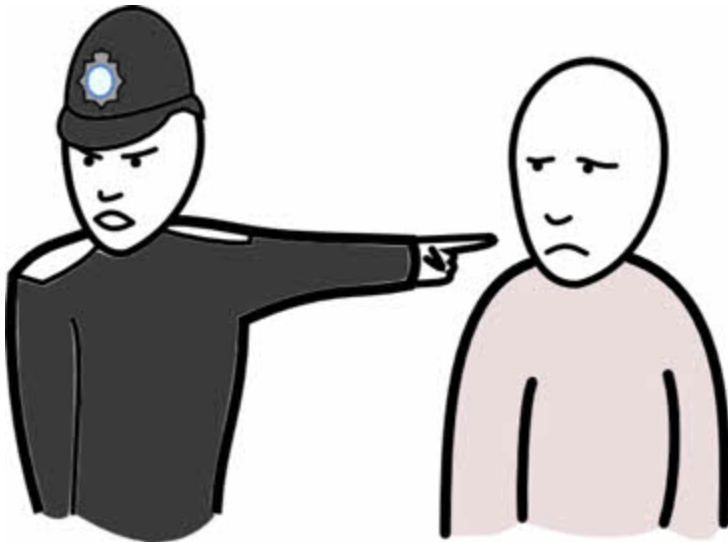
Admitted

Saying yes you did something.



Advocate

Usually a **lawyer** speaking up for someone else.



Alleged

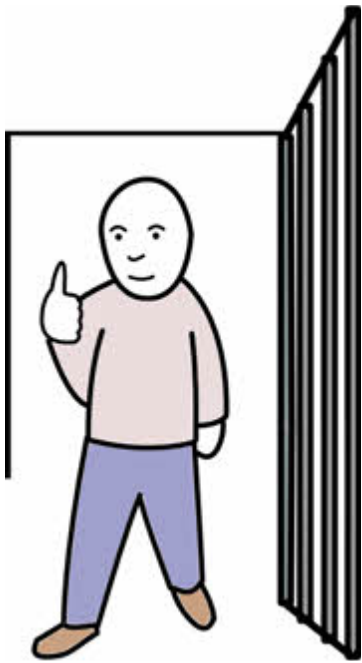
Saying something has happened.



Arrested

Being taken to a police station because they think you may have done a crime.

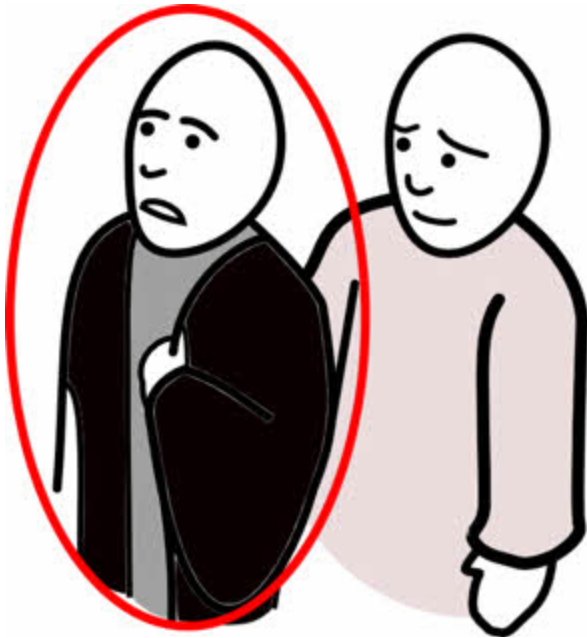
The police will ask you questions about it. You have the right to a lawyer to help you.



Bail

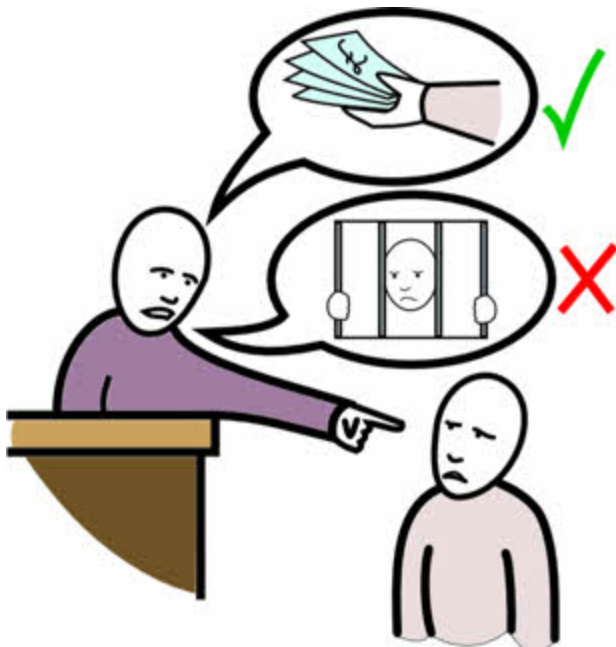
Being allowed out of prison until you have to go back to court, if a **judge** thinks you will go back when you should.

Sometimes you might need to go to a police station every day or stay in at night time.



Barrister

A **lawyer** who can act for you in court.



Civil law

Civil laws are the rules for things like buying a house, making agreements, getting married or work.

If you break a civil law, you will not go to prison but you might have to pay a fine.



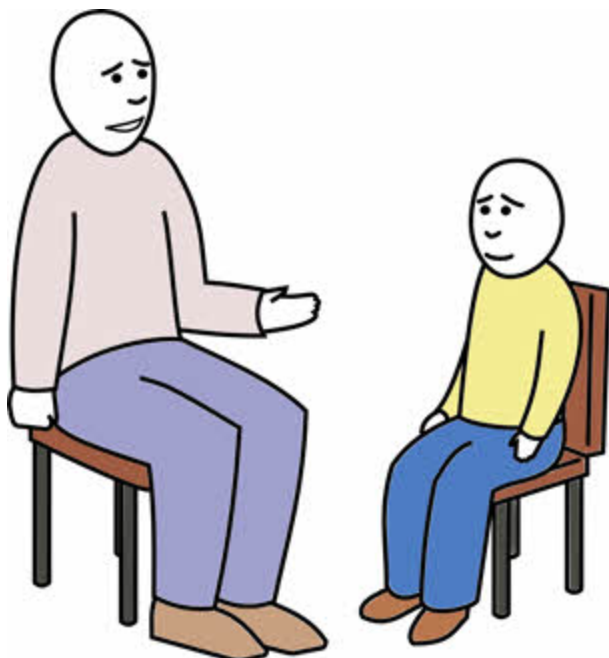
Committed (a crime)

This means that you have broken a law.



Contributions

Money that you may need to pay towards the **legal aid** for your case.



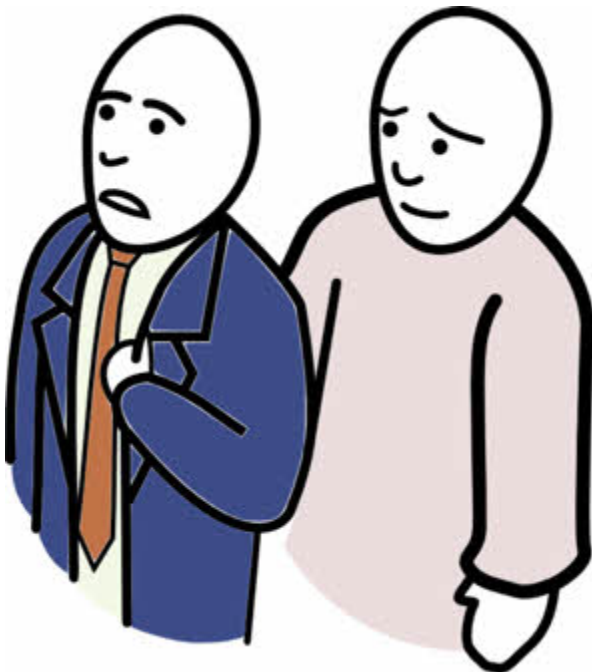
Contact

Being able to see your child but they do not live with you.



Custody

Being locked up in prison or a police station.



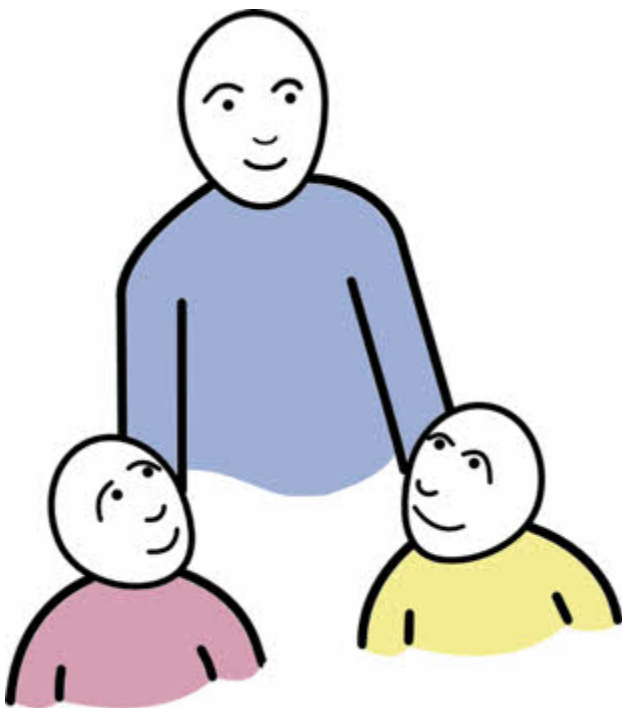
Defence

You or a **lawyer** saying why you did or didn't do something.



Defendant

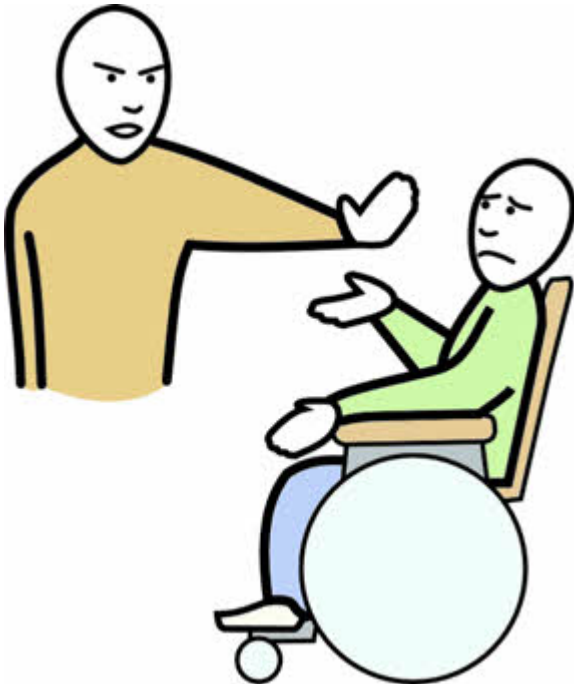
The person who is meant to have done something.



Dependents

The people who rely on you to live, they do not work and have no money of their own.

They might be children or grandparents who live with you or a person you are caring for.



Discrimination

Being treated differently or unfairly because you are seen as different.



Dock

The place in court where the person who is said to have done something stands.



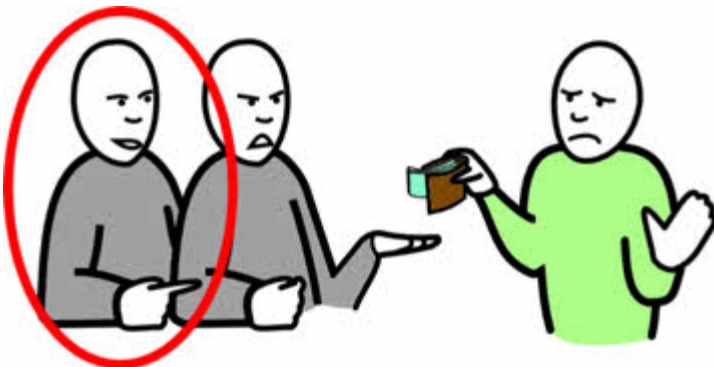
Guilty

When a court decides that you did something.



Hearing

When a court hears what everyone has to say.



Incitement

To persuade someone to do something.

In the law, this is usually to do a crime or make trouble.



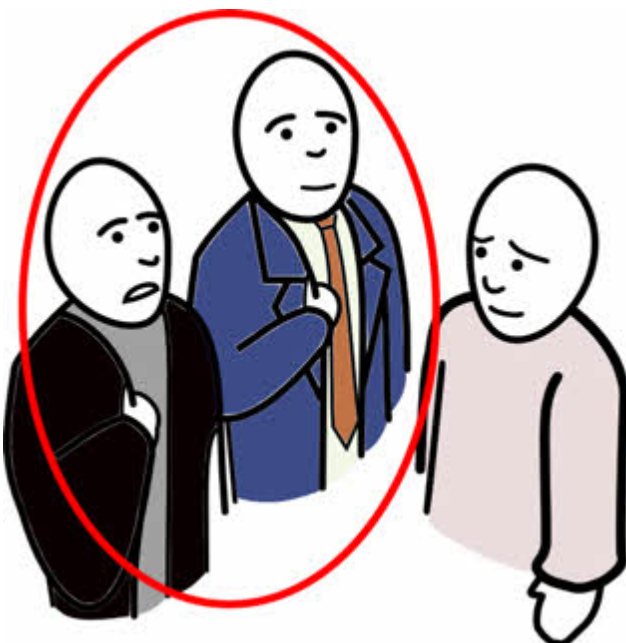
Innocent

When it has been decided you did not do something, sometimes called “**not guilty**”.



Judge

A person in charge of a court.



Lawyer

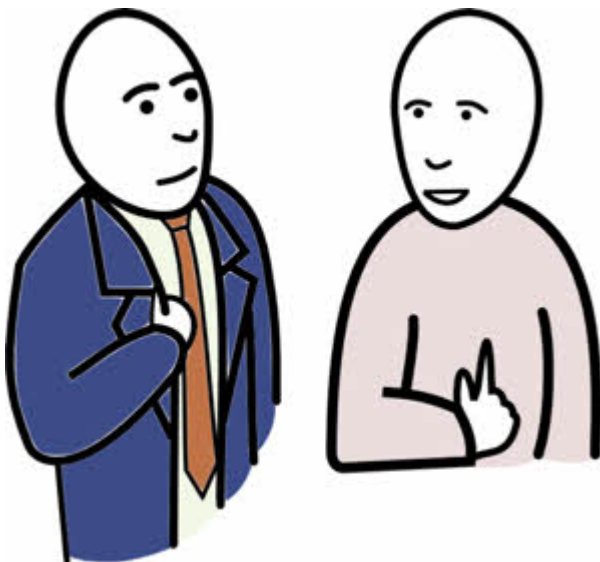
People who know about the law and can give you advice or help you with legal problems.

They can be **Solicitors** or **Barristers**.



Legal aid

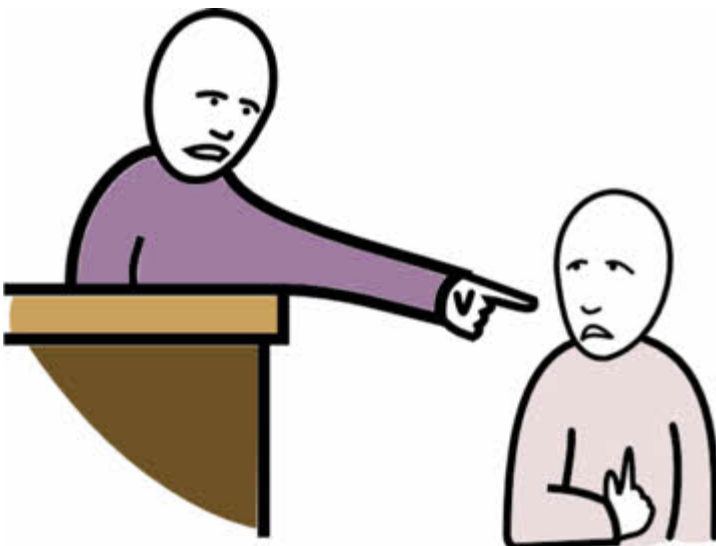
Money the government will pay a lawyer to help you.



Legal capacity

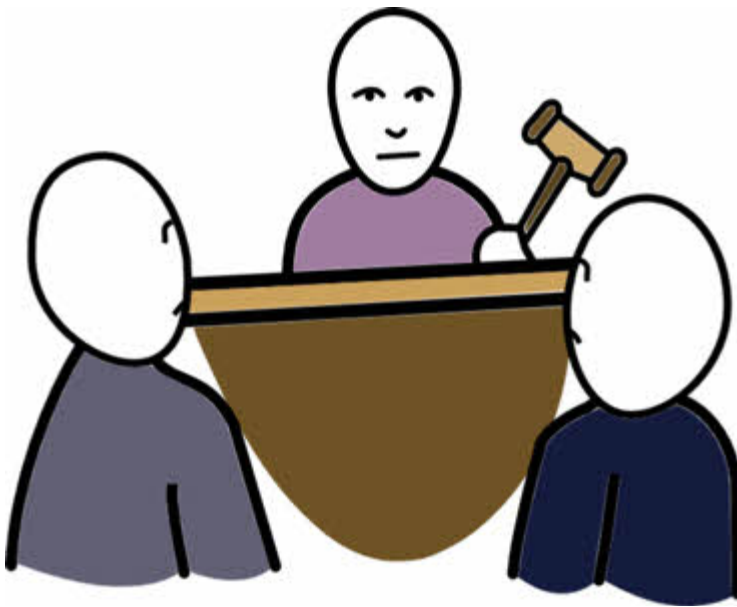
Being able to understand what is happening in a case.

If you can not understand properly someone else might be asked to act for you.



Liable

When the law says you are responsible for something.



Litigation

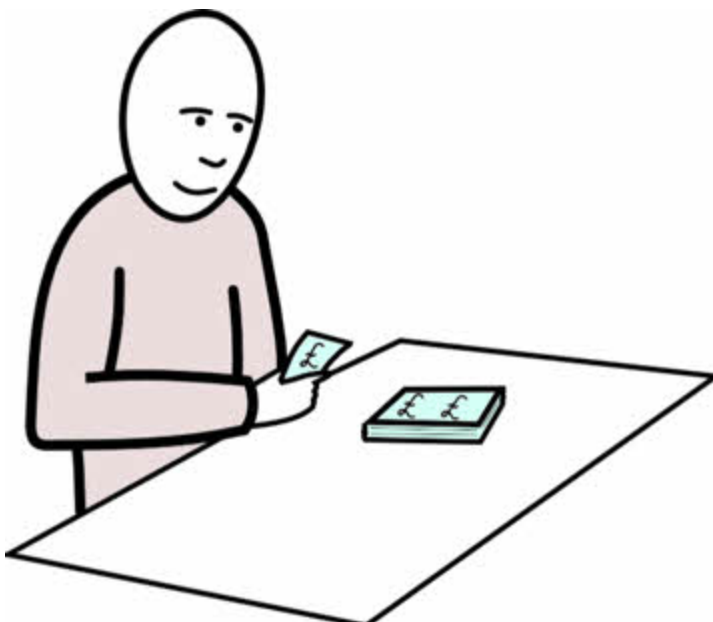
Another word for going to court or using the law to sort out a problem.



Magistrate

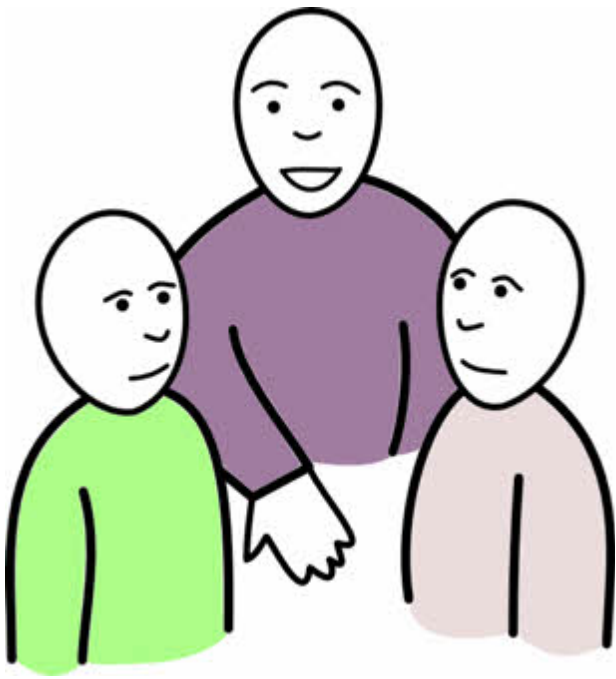
The people in charge of a lower court where most cases start off.

There are usually 3 of them in court.



Means

How much money you have.



Mediation

An independent person who can help sort out a problem without going to court.



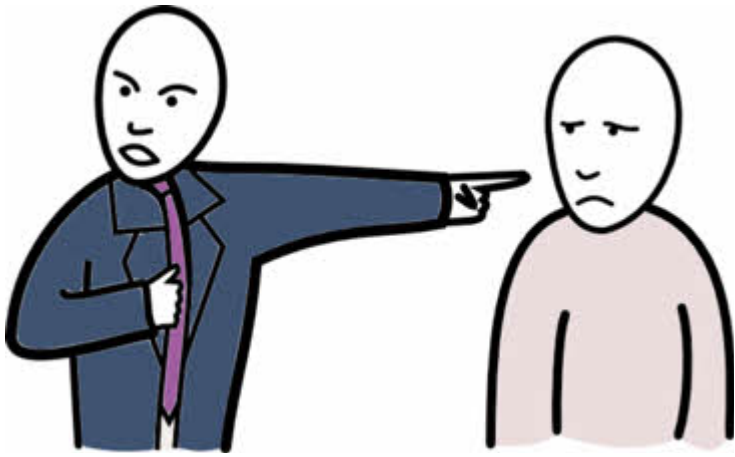
Merits

How good a chance you have of winning a court case or trial.



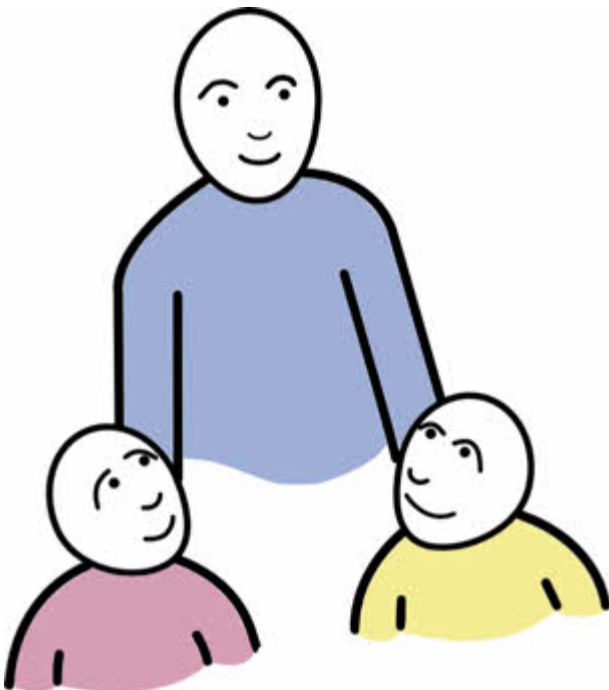
Not guilty

When it has been decided you did not do something, sometimes called “**innocent**”.



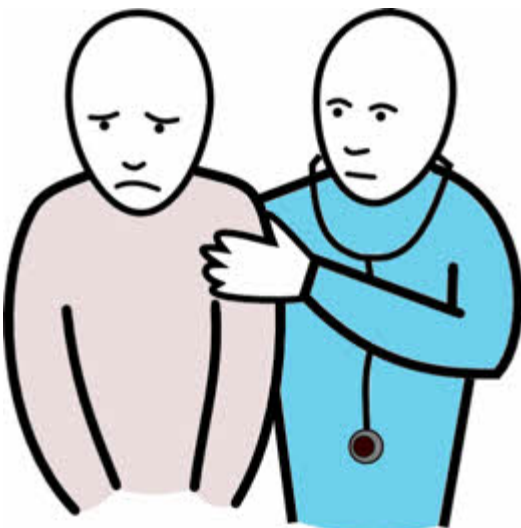
Prosecutor

The **lawyer** who tries to show someone did a crime.



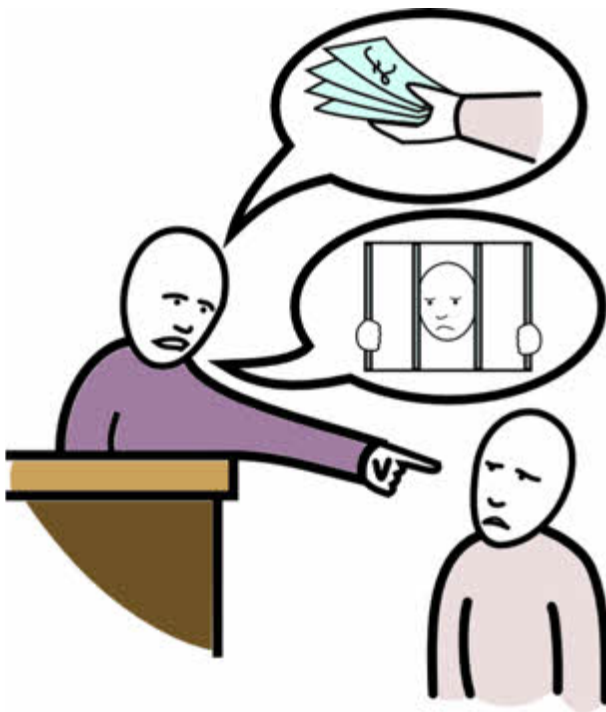
Residence (order)

This is when your child lives with you.



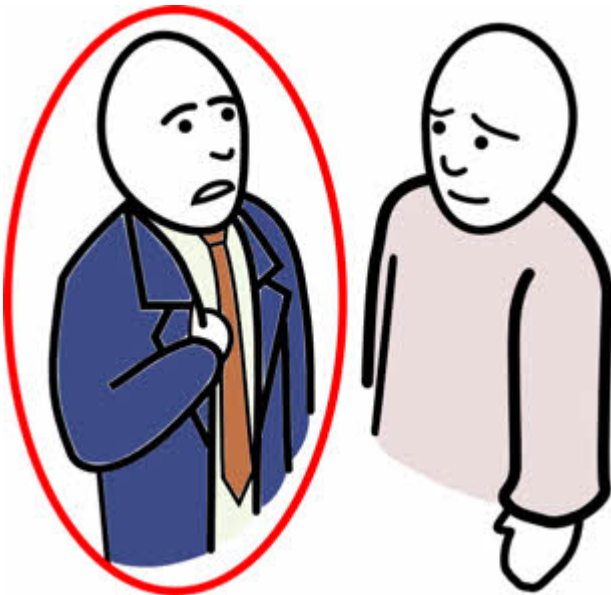
Sectioned

This means you will have to stay in a hospital or another place even if you don't want to.



Sentence

The punishment you get in court.



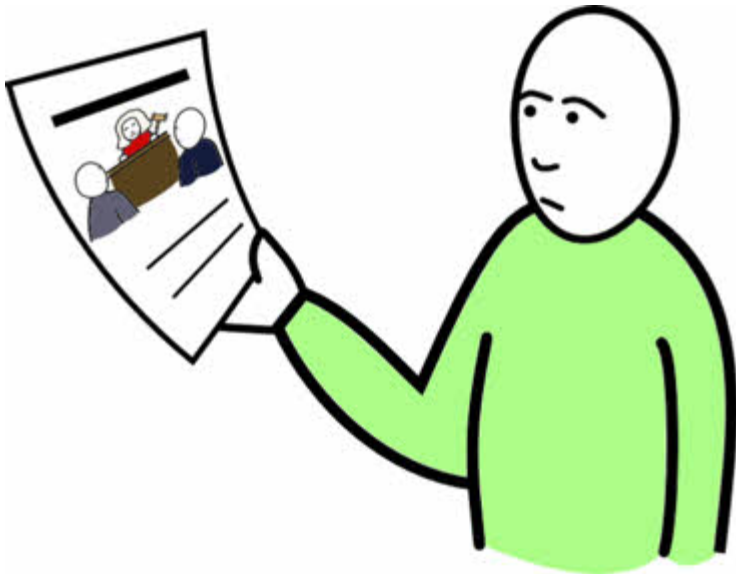
Solicitor

A **lawyer** who can give you advice about the law and help you get ready for court or act for you in a **magistrates** court.



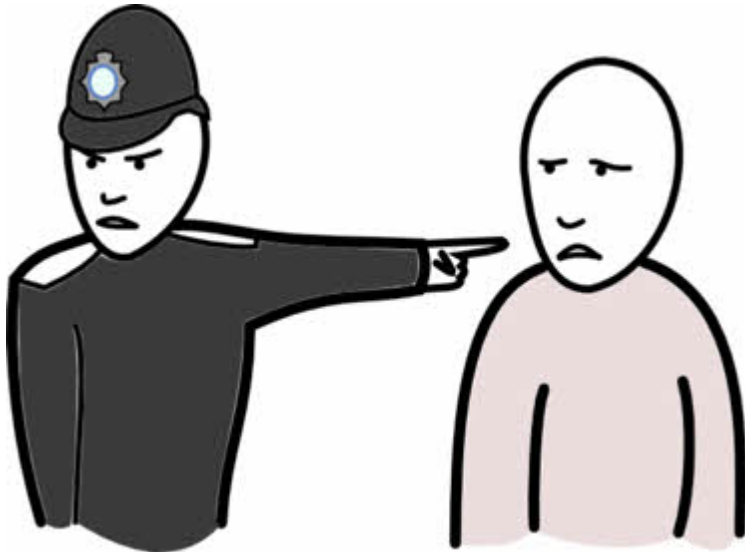
Statement

Writing down what really happened. Someone else can write this down for you and if you agree you just have to sign it.



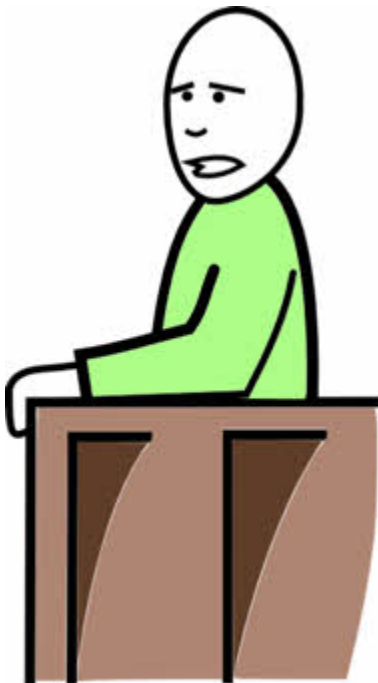
Summons

A letter saying you must go to court.



Suspect

Someone the police think broke the law.



Witness

Someone who can tell the court what happened.



Credits

This dictionary has been designed and produced for the Legal Services Commission by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd.

Ref ISL355/08. November 2009.

To contact Inspired Services:



www.inspiredservices.co.uk