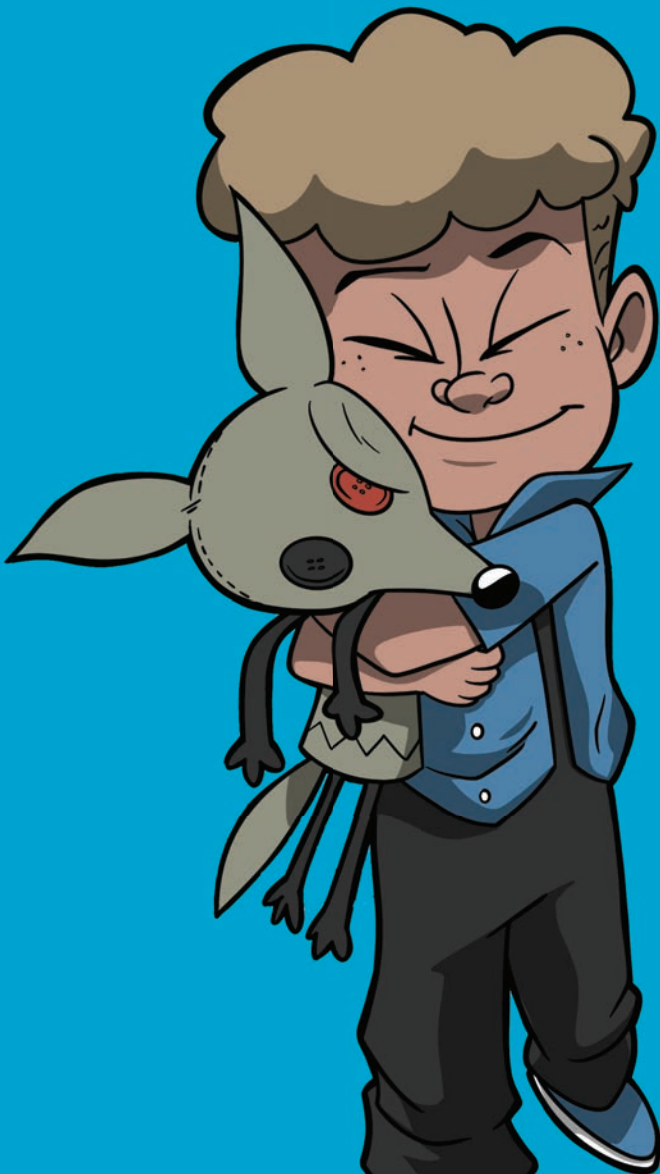


# MARVIS & ROCKEE

RIGHTS & ROLES BOOK



Sometimes kids are hurt when a grown-up does something wrong and breaks the rules, or a kid might see or hear someone else being hurt. When that happens, kids might be asked to talk to different grown-ups about it. These grown-ups are part of something called the criminal legal system. This book will help you understand who they are and what they do to make sure kids and families are safe.

Things like this happen to other Native and non-Native kids and families, too. But every situation is different. In some cases, a kid might go to court to share what they remember, but other times, kids talk to a doctor, police officer, or lawyer about what happened instead.

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No matter what is happening for you, please remember that none of this is your fault and you are not alone. You can ask for help from the grown-ups working with you, like the ones in this book or in Marvis' story, or other grown-ups in your family or community that you trust.

# WHAT IS THEIR JOB?

## ROLES IN THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

In this section you will learn about the jobs of the different grown-ups you might meet.

These grown-ups may be from your tribe, from another tribe, or work for the local, state, or federal government.

You will find out what your job is, too!



## **POLICE**

A police officer's job is to help keep people safe. They might ask you questions to help them learn about what happened. Some police officers wear a uniform, but others wear regular clothes.

## **VICTIM ADVOCATE**

This person's job is to help you and your family, and to answer questions about going to court. Ask them any questions you have!

## **DEFENDANT**

This person may have done something wrong or broken the rules. Some of the grown-ups have the job of figuring out what happened.

## **JUDGE**

The judge's job is to listen to everyone and then make decisions in the court.

## **JURY**

The jury listens to all of the information that's shared in court and decides whether or not the information shows that the defendant did something wrong.

# PROSECUTOR

If a grown-up broke the rules or hurt another person, the prosecutor tries to learn about what happened by asking questions and talking with the people who might have seen or heard about it. The prosecutor also talks in court about what happened and ways to keep everyone safe.

# DEFENSE ATTORNEY/LAY ADVOCATE

This person's job is to help the person called the defendant. They will ask for what the defendant wants and make sure they are treated fairly in court.

# BAILIFF/COURT SECURITY

This person tries to make sure everyone in the court is safe.

# COURT REPORTER

The court reporter's job is to write down everything people say in the courtroom. They type what everyone says very fast.

# **SOCIAL WORKER/THERAPIST**

Social workers help children and families with hard things that are going on in their lives. Some work in the prosecutor's office, where they can go with you to meetings, answer your questions, and help with feeling safe and getting other things you need. And some social workers work as therapists, providing counseling to children and their families.

# **VICTIM**

A victim is someone who was hurt when another person did something wrong or broke a rule.

# **WITNESS**

A witness is someone who saw or heard another person doing something wrong or breaking a rule.

# **YOU**

Your job is to talk to the grown-ups about what you saw, heard and remember about what happened.



# Going to Court

## DID YOU KNOW?



...that when you go to court, there are people who work in the courthouse and they are there to help you.

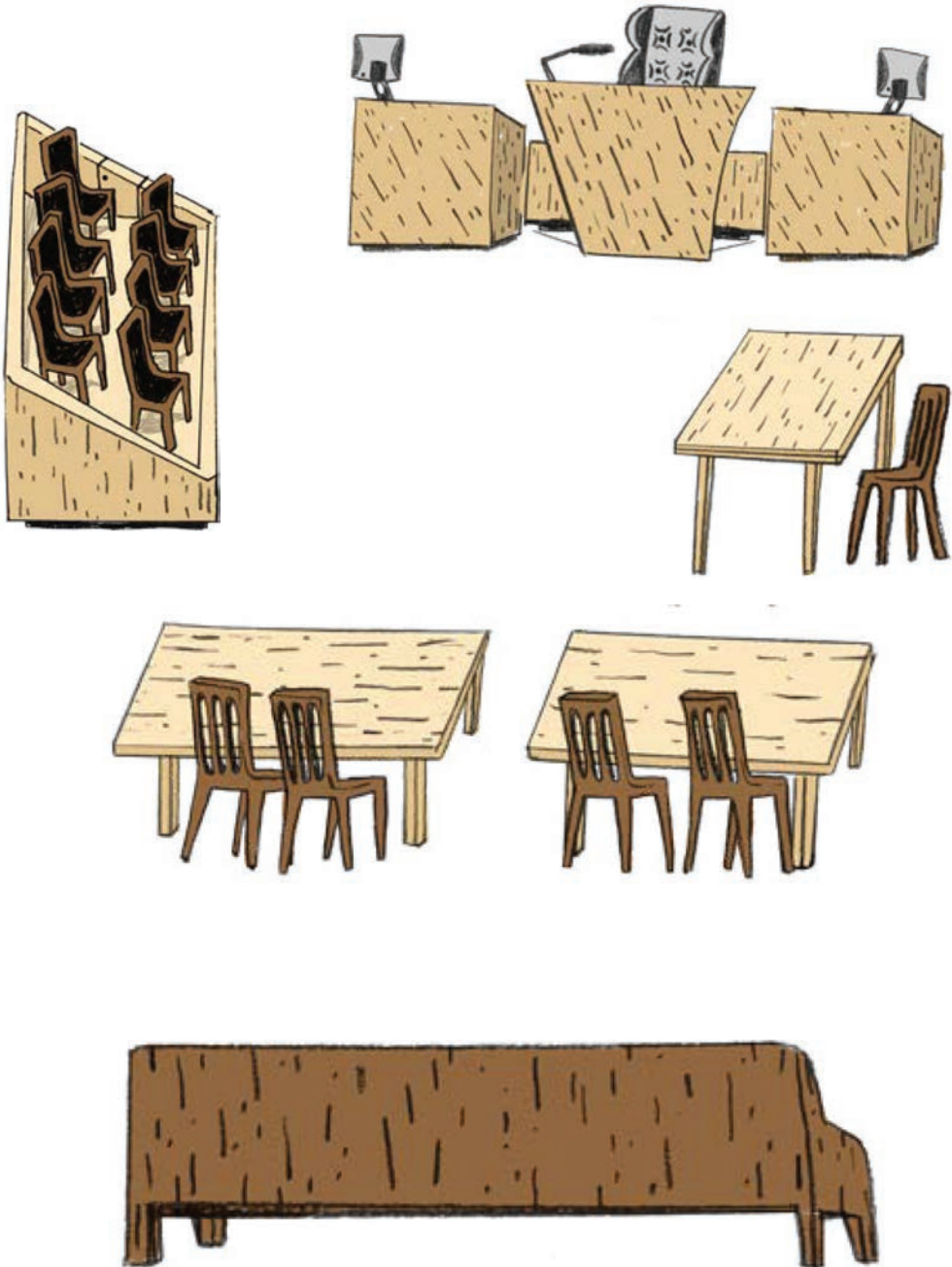
You are allowed to ask as many questions as you want! If you don't know what's going on, ask!

If you have a special toy or something else small that makes you feel happy, you can bring that with you to court.

You should always feel safe. If you feel scared, tell a grown-up that you trust. You can also ask them questions to help you understand what's happening.

# The Courtroom

Many of these people you just read about work in the court. At some point, you might have to go to court, too. It can help to understand who will be there and where they will be sitting. Ask your advocate or one of the adults working with you on your case to show you using the drawing below.







# THE PEOPLE I KNOW

You can use this page to write down the names and information of the people you meet!

**Police Officer(s)**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Prosecutor**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Victim Advocate**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Judge**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Worker/Therapist**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other**

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# MARVIS & ROCKEE

The Center for Court Innovation's Child Witness Materials Project is a collaborative effort between the Center for Court Innovation and Alternate History Comics, Inc. and is supported by cooperative agreement #2018-V3-GX-K069, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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The characters, names, events, and likenesses thereof are fictitious. Any relation to real events, people, or locations is unintentional and used in a fictitious manner.

The Center for Court Innovation works to create a more effective and humane justice system by performing original research and helping launch reforms around the world.  
[www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org)

Alternate History Comics is a multiple award-winning publishing company that creates original graphic novels and cultural comic collections.  
<http://ahcomics.com>

The Center for Court Innovation is grateful to the project partners and stakeholders; justice system practitioners; and young survivors from all over the country who contributed to the development of this product.



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The Office for Victims of Crime is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

[www.ovc.ojp.gov](http://www.ovc.ojp.gov)

The Office of Justice Programs is a federal agency that provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources to improve the Nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its six program offices—the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking—support state and local crime-fighting efforts, fund thousands of victim service programs, help communities manage sex offenders, address the needs of youth in the system and children in danger, and provide vital research and data.



Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**

