

Criminal courts

Read about criminal courts and fill in the missing words from the list in italics.

cell, community, conditions, deception, disagree, fine, guilty, jury, life, minor, rape, sentence, trial, verdict

All criminal cases start in a magistrates' court. Cases are heard by either:

- 2 or 3 magistrates
- a district judge

There isn't a 1) _____ in a magistrates' court.

Cases a magistrates' court deals with

A magistrates' court normally handles cases known as 'summary offences', e.g.:

- most motoring offences
- 2) _____ criminal damage
- being drunk and disorderly

It can also deal with some of the more serious offences, e.g.:

- burglary
- drugs offences
- obtaining property or services by 3) _____

These are called 'either way' offences and can be heard either in a magistrates' court or in a Crown Court.

Cases that magistrates pass to the Crown Court

Magistrates' courts always pass the most serious crimes to the Crown Court, e.g.:

- murder
- 4) _____
- robbery

These are known as 'indictable offences'.

Being kept in custody or granted bail

In some cases, the magistrates' court decides if you should be:

- kept in custody - e.g. a police or court 5) _____
 - granted 'bail', and let out on strict 6) _____ - e.g. to keep away from named places or people
- This may happen if:
- another court hearing is needed
 - the court needs more information before passing 7) _____
 - your case is passed to the Crown Court for 8) _____ or sentencing

Sentences a magistrates' court can give

The court can give punishments including:

- up to 6 months in prison (or up to 12 months in total for more than one offence)
- a 9) _____ of up to £5,000
- a 10) _____ sentence, like doing unpaid work in the community

Courts can also give a combination of punishments - e.g. a fine and unpaid work in the community. If the court decides your sentence should be for longer than 6 months, it can pass your case to the Crown Court for sentencing.

Appealing a sentence or conviction

If you 11) _____ with the magistrate court's verdict, you may be able to appeal.

Who does what in the Crown Court?

- normally the Crown Court has a jury, twelve ordinary citizens, who are selected at random from the population - which decides if you're 12) _____ or not
- has a judge, called a Circuit Judge - who decides what sentence you get

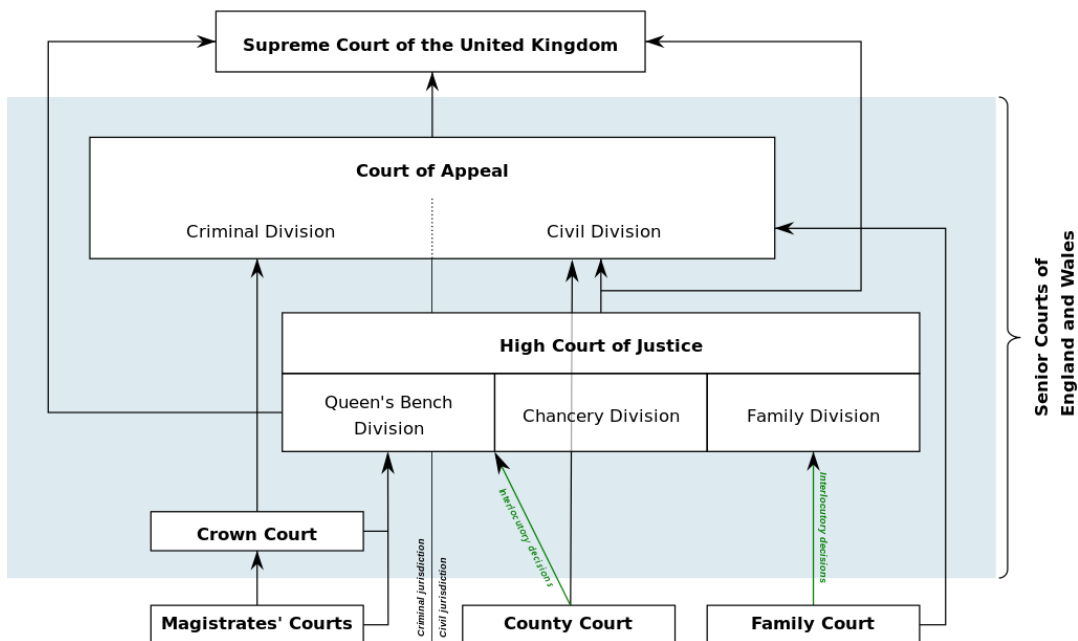
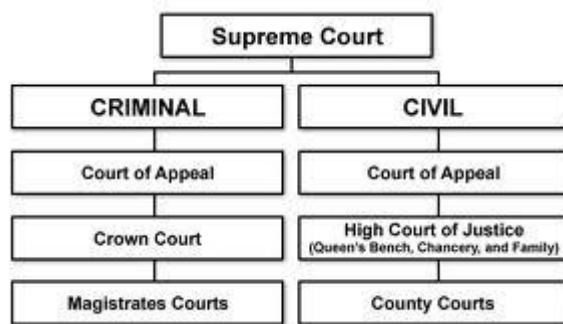
Sentences a Crown Court can give

A Crown Court can give a range of sentences including:

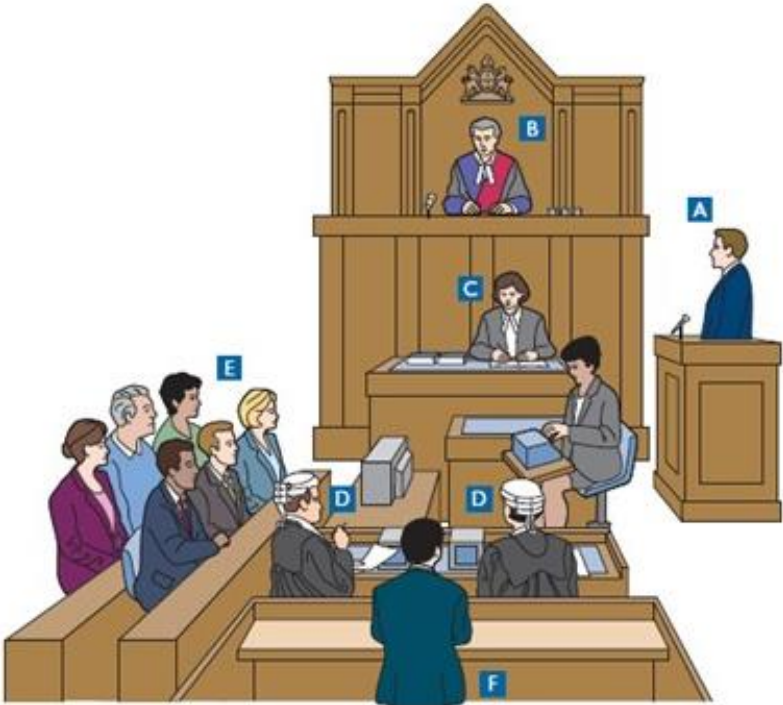
- community sentences
- prison sentences - including 13) _____ sentences

Appealing a sentence or conviction

If you disagree with the Crown Court's 14) _____, you may be able to appeal.



Who is who at the Crown Court?



- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

clerk of the court, defendant, judge, lawyers for the prosecution and the defence, members of the jury, witness