

# 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

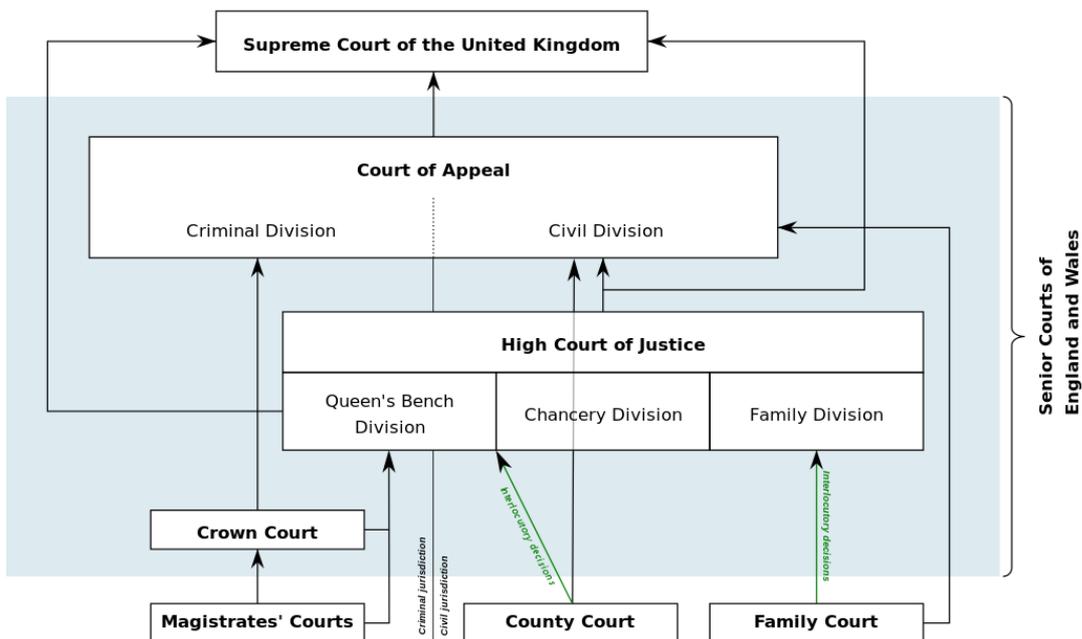
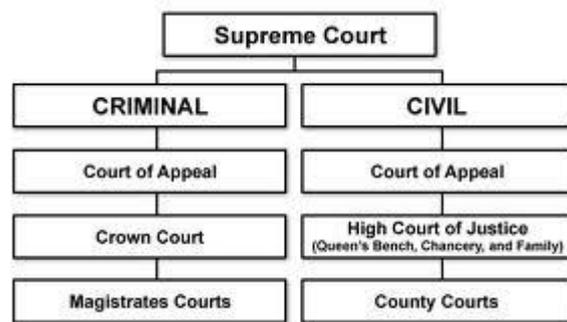
### Sentences a Crown Court can give

A Crown Court can give a range of sentences including:

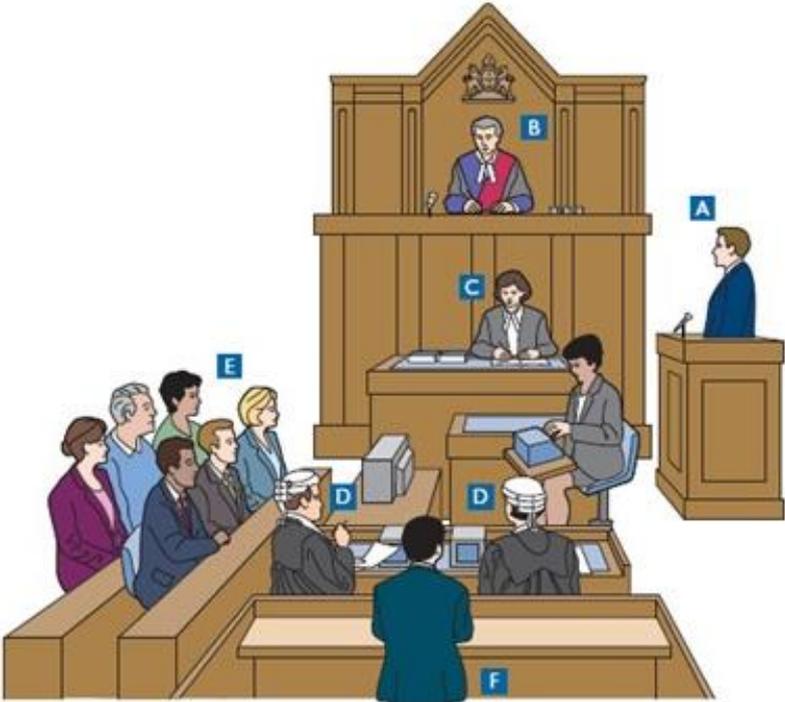
- community sentences
- prison sentences - including 13) \_\_\_\_\_ sentences

### 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*