



A Client Guide on
Crown Court Proceedings
at Trial

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CROWN COURT PROCEEDINGS AT TRIAL

This Client Guide is designed to explain what will happen on the day of your trial.

1. When you are called into the courtroom you will go into the dock. The jury will then be brought in. Their names will be read out and they will take their place in the jury box. Once all twelve members are seated they will be called, one by one, to swear that they will try your case faithfully. The Clerk will tell you that if you have any objections to any of the jury members you should tell the Court before they are sworn in. If you know any of the proposed jurors you should object immediately.
2. The Court Clerk will read over the charge to you and then the trial will begin.
3. **The Prosecution Case**
 - (a) The Prosecutor will outline the prosecution case against you to the Judge and jury.
 - (b) The first Prosecution witness will then be called. The witness will stand in the witness box and take the oath. The Prosecutor will then ask questions of the witness.
 - (c) Your barrister or solicitor will then cross-examine the witness on your behalf.
 - (d) The Prosecutor may then ask some more questions of the witness as a result of anything that arises from the cross-examination.
 - (e) The Judge may then ask the witness questions.
 - (f) Each prosecution witness will then be called in turn and the same procedure followed. Some of the Prosecution statements may be read to the Court because they are not in dispute
 - (g) The Prosecutor or the police officer that interviewed you will read a summary of the police interview to the Court. Sometimes, the interview tape itself is played instead.
4. We will then advise you whether there is a case against you to answer. If there is not we will make the necessary submission to the court on your behalf. You may not then have to give evidence. If there is a case to answer or the application does not succeed then the case will proceed as set out below.
5. **The Defence Case**
 - (a) If you choose to give evidence you will stand in the witness box and take the oath. Your barrister / solicitor will then ask you questions giving you the opportunity to tell the jury your version of events. You will also be asked questions about what the Prosecution witnesses have said against you.
 - (b) You will then be cross-examined by the Prosecutor.
 - (c) Once the cross-examination has finished, your barrister / solicitor may ask you more questions.
 - (d) The Judge may then ask you questions.
 - (e) Defence witnesses (if any) will then be called in turn and the same procedure will be followed.
6. Once the last witness has finished giving evidence the Prosecutor and then your barrister / solicitor will address the jury.
7. The Judge will sum up the case. He will remind the jury briefly of the evidence that has been heard and he will then explain the law regarding your particular charge to the jury. The jury has to accept what the Judge says regarding the law but they alone decide on the evidence.
8. The jury will then retire to consider their verdict and in due course return to tell the Court whether they find you Guilty or Not Guilty.
9. If you are found Guilty, the Judge may then pass sentence or adjourn the case for the preparation of a pre-sentence report by the Probation Service.

If you have any queries about your proceedings please contact Thursfields us at

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