

The Queensland Court System



STEP 1 A person is **ARRESTED** and **CHARGED**



If a person is aged between **10 AND 17** the case will be dealt with in the **YOUTH COURT**

more than **90 PER CENT** of all criminal trials are heard by a magistrate alone.

STEP 2 Hearing in the **MAGISTRATES COURT**

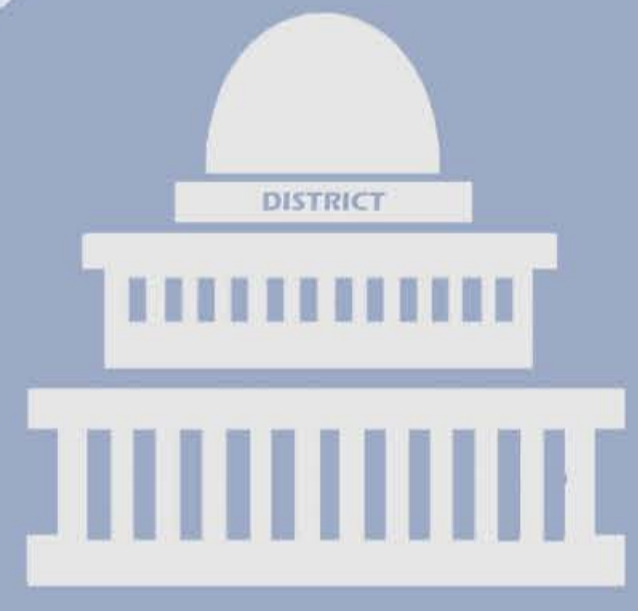


CASE TO ANSWER

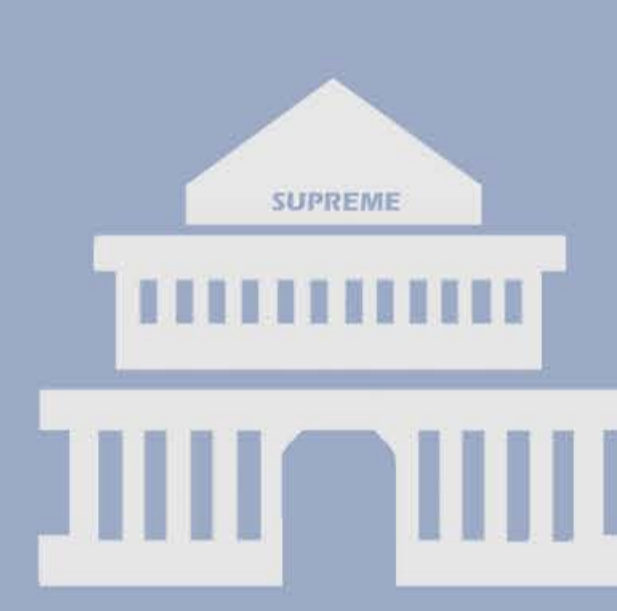
NOT GUILTY PLEA
to step 3

GUILTY PLEA
to step 6

STEP 3 case committed to a **HIGHER COURT**

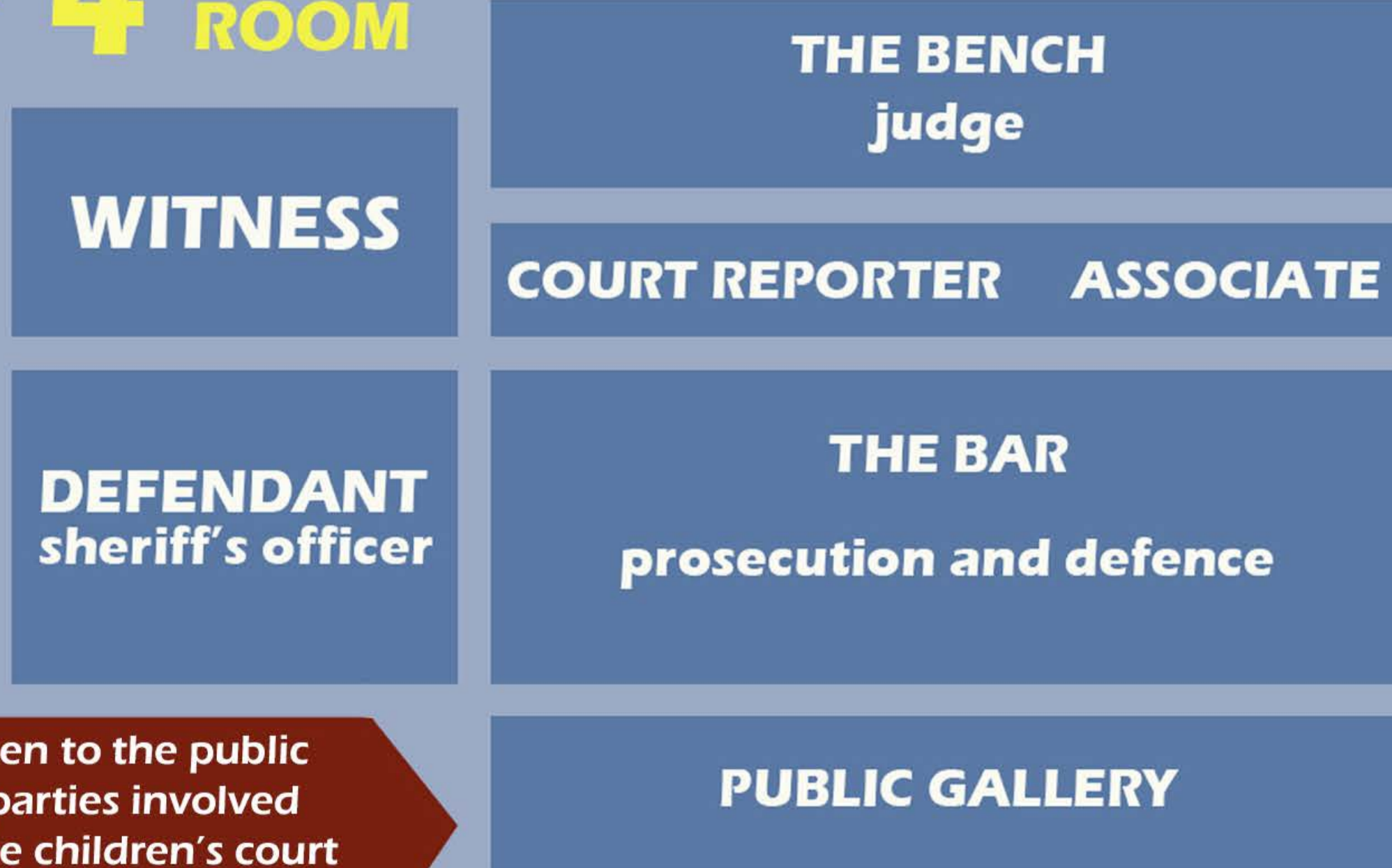


THE DISTRICT COURT
deals with serious crimes (except murder and treason) and civil, administrative and disciplinary matters, criminal injury claims and some appeals.



THE SUPREME COURT
is the highest court in QLD. It deals with murder, treason, the most serious of crimes and complex cases. It is the highest court of appeal in QLD.

STEP 4 **COURT ROOM**
the trial



Courts are open to the public but only the parties involved can attend the children's court and some specialist courts.



Of all cases heard in the Supreme and District Courts of **QLD**, only **ONE IN TEN** of all criminal matters annually goes before a jury.

THE JURY

a jury consists of 12 people (with up to 3 reserves in long trials). The jury may, after 8 hours of deliberation, bring back a majority verdict (of 10 or 11 jurors), except for murder, which must be unanimous for a guilty verdict.

STEP 5 **verdict**
not guilty free to go
guilty sentencing

FREEDOM

STEP 6 **SENTENCING**
a judge is bound by the law and the penalty set by parliament for the particular offence.

