



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School

POLICE SERVICES UNIT

A Joint Unit of the Yarmouth Police & Dennis Police Departments

Who's Who In Court

THE JUDGE

The finder of law during the criminal process and the finder of fact in the absence of a jury. Judges are appointed by the chief executive officer of the political entity, i.e the governor at the state level and the president at the federal level. Some judges are elected in jurisdictions outside of Massachusetts.



CLERK MAGISTRATE

The clerk magistrate handles scheduling and clerical duties of the court and has power to preside over some hearings and to issue arrest and search warrants.



COURT OFFICER

The court officer is sometimes referred to as a bailiff. This person is responsible for security in the courtroom and the handling of defendants in custody



PROSECUTOR (DISTRICT ATTORNEY)

This official is responsible for preparing and presenting a case on behalf of the government. The burden of proof lies here.



DEFENSE ATTORNEY

The defense attorney represents the defendant - Mission: to create a reasonable doubt in the mind of a judge or jury.



DEFENDANT

This is the person charged with a crime - innocent until proven guilty.



WITNESS(ES)

These are people who are in possession of key facts and are called before the court to give testimony. This includes the victim, police, regular people and occasionally experts in particular fields.



THE JURY

Average citizens, selected at random, who act as finders of fact. Juries can be comprised of groups of 6 or 12 people.

