

# A journey through the Courts



**COURTS  
ADMINISTRATION  
AUTHORITY**

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## STEP 1 A PERSON IS **ARRESTED** AND **CHARGED**

[FACT]

WHILE PRISONERS IN SA WEAR A UNIFORM, THEY DO NOT WEAR STRIPES, ORANGE OR ARROW-HEADED JUMPSUITS.

IF THE PERSON IS AGED BETWEEN 10 AND 18 THE CASE WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE **YOUTH COURT**.

### ON THE MOVE

ALONG WITH THE REGULAR LOCATIONS **SA COURTS** WILL ALSO CONDUCT CIRCUITS TO REGIONAL CITIES AND COUNTRY AREAS. ALL COURTS CAN ALSO VISIT **THE SCENE OF A CRIME**.

## STEP 2 HEARING IN THE MAGISTRATES COURT

[FACT]

ALL CRIMINAL MATTERS BEGIN IN THE **MAGISTRATES COURT** AND

**ALMOST ALL**

ARE **FINALISED** THERE.

NO CASE TO ANSWER  
**CHARGES DISMISSED**

MAGISTRATES

### HOW TO LOOK GOOD IN COURT



**MAGISTRATES** DO NOT WEAR A WIG



**DISTRICT COURT JUDGES** WEAR A WIG AND PURPLE ROBES



**SUPREME COURT JUDGES** WEAR A WIG AND RED ROBES

CASE TO ANSWER

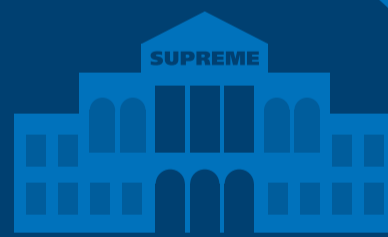
**NOT GUILTY PLEA** TO STEP 3    **GUILTY PLEA** TO STEP 6

## STEP 3 CASE COMMITTED TO A HIGHER COURT

CASES CAN BE MOVED FROM THE DISTRICT COURT TO THE SUPREME 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 SA. IT DEALS WITH MURDER, TREASON, THE MOST SERIOUS OF CRIMES AND COMPLEX CASES. IT IS THE HIGHEST COURT OF APPEAL IN SA.

[FACT]

AUSTRALIAN JUDGES DO NOT USE **GAVELS** OR SAY **"ORDER IN THE COURT"**

## STEP 4 THE TRIAL

**COURTROOM**

**WITNESS**

**DEFENDANT**

SHERIFF'S OFFICER

**THE BENCH**  
JUDGE

COURT REPORTER    ASSOCIATE

THIS AREA IS CALLED **THE WELL**. IT IS SAID THAT THE ONLY THING THAT SHOULD PASS OVER THE WELL IS THE **TRUTH**.

**THE BAR**

PROSECUTION AND DEFENCE

PUBLIC GALLERY

[FACT] IN SA THE JUDGE DOES NOT SAY "APPROACH THE BENCH"

**JURY**

SHERIFF'S OFFICER

[FACT]

A JURY CONSISTS OF 12 PEOPLE (WITH UP TO 3 RESERVES IN LONG TRIALS). THE JURY MAY, AFTER 4 HOURS OF DELIBERATION, BRING BACK A MAJORITY VERDICT (OF 10 OR 11 JURORS), EXCEPT FOR MURDER, WHICH MUST BE UNANIMOUS FOR A GUILTY VERDICT.

[FACT] COURTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BUT ONLY THE PARTIES INVOLVED CAN ATTEND THE YOUTH COURT AND SOME SPECIALIST COURTS.

## 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.

**FINE**

**GAOL**

**SUSPENDED SENTENCE & BOND**

**CONFISCATION/DISQUALIFICATION**