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GOING TO COURT – YOUR CHOICES!

EXT. LAW COURTS – MORNING

It's a bright clear morning, and the camera floats down the side of the courthouse. Andrew Mackay, our Crown Counsel, turns and faces the camera, prepared for his day in court.

Andrew: "Hi, I'm Andrew Mackay, Crown Counsel. When you come to court, it may feel like you don't have many choices, but actually, you do. As Crown Counsel, it's my job to ask you questions in court, and help you tell the Judge what happened."

As Andrew is saying his last line, from over his shoulder we see K-9, on his BMX, riding up behind Andrew. K-9 stops beside him.

K-9: "Hi Mr. Mackay!"

Andrew glances over to K-9.

Andrew: "Hey K-9."

K-9: "What are you doing here?"

Andrew alludes to the camera.

Andrew: "Talking about all the different choices people have when they come to court. Wanna help?"

K-9: "I got your back."

K-9 looks at the camera, shuffles up to the lens on his bike.

K-9: "Dude's right you know. When I had to testify, I had all kinds of choices I never knew I had before."

K-9 shuffles back to Andrew.

Andrew: Not only that, there are things you need to tell Crown as well, before the trial begins.”

K-9: “Like what?”

Andrew: “Well, remember what you told me when we first met?”

K-9 thinks, but is drawing a blank. Andrew leans in and whispers in his ear.

Andrew: “Reading difficulties.”

K-9: “Right. If you have problems reading, let Crown Counsel know.”

As K-9 explains, Andrew flips open his briefcase.

K-9: “ ‘Cause there are lots of documents and stuff when you’re involved in a trial.”

Andrew: “If I know that reading is tough for you, I can help.”

K-9: “What else?”

Andrew: “Well, all about the choices they have to make when they’re going to testify.”

K-9: “I know all about that. I’ll help you out.”

Andrew: “That’d be great K-9. You give them the breakdown, and I’ll meet up with you later to talk about all the specifics they need to know about testifying.

Andrew waves to K-9, and dashes off into the courthouse. K-9 calls after him.

K-9: “We’ll catch up with you!”

K-9 takes off on his bike, down the street, the camera going with him.

K-9: “Like the man said, you have certain choices to make when you come to court. Like, how you’re gonna testify. But not everything that happens in court is up to you. So how do you keep it straight?”

He skids to a stop.

Image: Four images, along with text, from court appear on the screen representing the four stages.

K-9: “Think of court in four stages. There’s *Before Court*: this is your prep time, you know? Getting ready, talking to Crown counsel, getting information, asking questions, that kind of thing. There’s *Waiting To Go Into The Courtroom On Court Day*, which is absolutely as exciting as it sounds! There’s *In Court*, as in...all rise! This is when you are actually testifying. And finally, there’s *After Court*. If you’re like me, After Court’s when you’re kicking back in the arcade once it’s all over!”

Image: A montage of court images overlapping one another, as K-9 speaks.

K-9: “There’s tons of stuff to remember when you’re going to court, and I bet you got some questions too. To make it easier, I’m gonna give you your own backpack to keep all the info you want to talk to Crown about.”

VFX – The backpack appears near the bottom of the screen.

K-9:” Just like the bag you take to school. Whenever we cover something that you want to remember to talk to Crown Counsel about, just drag the icon into your backpack. At the end of the video, you can print out a list of all your questions or concerns that you collected. You can also send it in an email to your Crown Counsel as well. Pretty sweet. Man I love the Net!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

TITLE: *Before Court*

Image: An animated picture of our Crown Counsel with a teen in his office, conducting an advance interview.

K-9: “So this is you in your pre-court advance interview with Crown Counsel. Okay, maybe this looks nothing like you.”

SFX – snap

Image: The teen switches to a completely different looking teen.

K-9: “Any closer?”

SFX – snap

Image: The teen switches again.

K-9: “Not yet?”

SFX – snap

Image: A crazy looking troll of some kind is now in the chair.

K-9: “Yikes!”

SFX – snap

Image: All four characters are on the screen to be chosen.

K-9: “All right, I’ll leave it up to you. Who do you wanna be?”

INTERACTION – The viewer chooses who they want to represent them.

K-9: “Okay, so I don’t want to tell you how to live your life, but for me, the most important thing that happens before court, is your advance interview with Crown Counsel. This is the meeting where you and Crown talk about the trial and your role in it. And like I said off the top, not every decision is yours to make, but at this meeting Crown and you will decide on those parts where you have input. Cool?”

The camera swings to over Harvey’s shoulder, looking down on a subpoena in front of him on his desk.

K-9: “Look familiar? This is a subpoena. If you were given one of these, it means you have to appear in court, no choice. Sorry guys.”

The camera swings to show Harvey, H&S (Head and Shoulders)

K-9: “What about Crown? Ehhhh....no dice. You don’t decide which Crown gets to help you.”

The camera quickly PULLS BACK flashing, before landing on the courthouse outside.

K-9: “Same deal for the courthouse. Where your trial happens isn’t up to you. I know what you’re thinking, hey K-9 what happened to all the choices you talked about?”

The camera PUSHES BACK into Harvey’s office, landing on his calendar.

K-9: “Here we go! The date you have to appear in court is one thing you may have some say in. BUT, and that’s a big but, you have to talk to Crown well in advance before the date is set, and tell Crown about any important dates to avoid. Say, your court date lands on the day you have an exam. Who can think about being in court when they got a test to focus on? That’s something Crown may be able to prevent, if they are given enough time. Or, if the trial is more than one day, they may be able to switch your testimony day just for you.”

The camera swings around to the teen in their chair.

K-9: “When you meet with Crown Counsel can also be worked out in advance. If the first date you are given doesn’t work, contact Crown as soon as possible and arrange another time.”

The camera PULLS BACK quickly again out of the room flashing, before landing in a courtroom.

K-9: “HOW you testify is also something you have a say in. This is HUGELY important. So important in fact, that we are going to talk about it a bit later. When we can give it all our attention. Until then, it’s important to know that when you have your advance interview with Crown, is when you need to talk about all your testifying options!”

The camera PUSHES BACK into Crown’s office, first landing on the teen, then back over their shoulder to their parent.

K-9: “It’s up to you who you bring with you to your meeting with Crown. It can be anybody you really trust and feel comfortable with. Like a parent, or an older brother or sister, or something. Only thing is, if the person you choose also will be testifying in the SAME trial, they won’t be allowed to sit with you while you talk to Crown.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Crown’s office, an icon representing all the issues discussed, from subpoenas to support person are placed on the screen.

K-9: “Okay peeps, here’s your chance to drag any items into your information backpack. What do YOU want to make sure you don’t forget to talk to Crown about?”

An END button is placed on the screen for the viewer to click when finished.

FLASH TO:

Animation: Andrew seated at his desk, speaking to the camera.

Andrew: “During your pre-trial interview Crown is concerned about four things: Making sure you get to court on court day, knowing what you are going to say, helping you refresh your memory if a long time has passed, and making sure supports are there for you to make it all easier. It is the time for YOU to tell me, Crown counsel, what prep you feel you need before court. This is why this interview should happen early enough so there is time to get you ready.”

K-9 pops up over his shoulder.

K-9: “That’s right Mr. Mackay.”

Andrew: “There are others who can help too so everything is covered.”

K-9: “Tell them about court visits.”

Andrew: “There’s a whole list of things you can do.”

K-9: “And the vids they can watch, oh and—“

A voice comes over the intercom system.

V/O: “Andrew Mackay to Courtroom 301.”

Andrew: “That’s me.”

Andrew leaves.

K-9: Dude’s really busy.”

K-9 turns to the camera.

K-9: “So, like my man was saying, court prep can look a lot of different ways. It’s really your call. What would make you feel the best about going to court? Check out the options!”

FLASH TO:

Image: Court tour, or courtroom with trial in progress.

K-9: “Take a trip to an actual courtroom first to see what it’s all about. You can see a trial in progress, or Crown can arrange a tour with a Victim

Service Worker, or other court support person, where you, and a family member or friend, can take a peek close-up.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Teen watching prep video.

K-9: “There are lots of cool vids (videos) you can watch now about what it’s like going to court. Like, “Let’s Go To Court”, which you can check out on this site.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Crown office with teen.

K-9: “Remember, a meeting with Crown in advance is a **MUST**.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Crown and teen reviewing police statement, with video.

K-9: “You and Crown can also review the statement you gave to police. It’s good to hit the refresh button now and then! And to help you be ready, re-read your statement, or watch your recorded statement on video.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Teen reading over previous testimonial transcripts.

K-9: “If you’re testifying in Supreme Court, you can ask Crown for transcripts of your testimony from the preliminary hearing. You need to remind yourself of what you said before, and the transcript has all of that in there. You will only see *yours*, and no one else’s, and it is for your use only.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Wheelchair access to courthouse.

K-9: “If you have a medical condition that may affect your ability to testify, or need something like wheelchair access to court, it’s all good. Remember, to tell Crown at your meeting what might make your court experience more comfortable.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A teen on the witness box.

K-9: “Nobody likes public speaking, unless you’re that Dr. Phil dude, so if you’re really freaked about having to speak in front of a room full of people, or worried about answering the lawyer’s questions in court, tell Crown at your meeting.”

FLASH TO:

Image: K-9 watching a trial in progress, we hear his voice:

K-9: “These are just some of the things you can talk about with Crown. Remember, along with your backpack, you’ll also be able to download and print out a checklist of important info at the end of this video.”

FX – The options all appear onscreen in icon form. They are: 1. Closed Courtroom 2. Testifying Behind a Screen 3. Testifying from outside the courtroom 4. Testifying with a Support Person 5. Being Cross-examined by a lawyer, not the Accused 6. Special Needs.

K-9: “Throw any, or all of these into your shopping cart, if they are something you want to talk with Crown about.”

FX – An additional ICON appears, called: OTHER

K-9: “If I didn’t hit something important to you, here’s your chance to write it down and include it in your checklist so you won’t forget it later. Go for it!”

A CONTINUE button is presented for when the viewer is finished.

Once pressed we see a link to courtprep.ca

K-9: “If you want more low-down on being ready for court, see if courtprep.ca has the info you’re looking for.”

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

Title: *Waiting For Court*

Animation: K-9 sits in a crowded courthouse, watching the clock on the wall. Each tick seems more time consuming than the last, until he leaps out of his seat, and glides quickly to the wall with the clock.

He glances around like a private detective before attaching suction cups to his hands and knees, and begins scaling the wall.

When he arrives at the clock, he lifts the glass, and manually moves the second hand faster and faster, speeding up the action down below.

K-9: “Man, this would be cool.”

FLASH TO:

K-9, back in his seat.

K-9: “So, you don’t control time...yet. But waiting for court doesn’t have to feel like being at the dentist.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A teen waiting in a private room.

K-9: “Not every courthouse has a separate room for you to wait in, but a lot of them do. And if they don’t, Crown may be able to arrange for a room somewhere, so you don’t have to be around a bunch of strangers, or people you don’t want to see.”

CUT TO:

Image: Support team with teen.

K-9: “Before your trial you should select a court support team. These are peeps that you trust, and will make being in court less stressful. People like a friend, parent or guardian, social worker, or a Victim Service Worker. These are all people who could make up a support team. Pick people who can come with you to Crown interviews, and be with you while you wait to go into court.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A teen waiting playing a video game.

K-9: “What you bring with you could be just as important. Nobody likes waiting, but it’s impossible to know just how long you may have to wait before you testify, so...bring some stuff with you! Books, puzzles, magazines, video games, I’ll leave it up to you. Just know that it’s okay for you to bring that kind of stuff to the courthouse.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A different teen with a snack.

SFX – a stomach grumbling.

K-9: “Ah man I’m starving. Just like bringing stuff for your mind, bring stuff for your stomach as well. If you gotta wait, food and bev are critical.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A waiting room. An icon representing different options for support team come on the screen.

K-9: “Create your own Court Support Team. Who would you like to have with you? And remember, if I don’t have them here, click OTHER, and type it in, so you have it on file later1”

CONTINUE BUTTON

FLASH TO:

Image: A waiting room. Icons representing different games and books options come on the screen, including OTHER option.

K-9: “What to bring? What to bring? If it were me, it’d be BMX mags. How about you?”

CONTINUE BUTTON

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

Title: *In Court*

Animation: K-9 in court

K-9: “Dudes, here we are, it’s time for you to testify. No biggie, you’re ready, I know you’ll nail it. But I bet’cha didn’t know, there are different ways you can testify. For real.”

From behind him, we see Andrew peek into frame. He points to K-9 and a Sheriff enters frame, appearing as though they’re going to take him away, instead they come and greet him.

Sheriff: “Welcome to Court.”

K-9: “Thanks man.”

Sheriff: “Andrew wanted us to make sure you knew where to go when you got here.”

K-9 turns to the camera.

K-9: “That Andrew. Now that’s what I call service.”

K-9’s cell phone rings...

K-9: “One second...hello?”

The Sheriff escorts him away.

Sheriff: “Sorry, no cell phones in court.”

K-9: “Wait, I gotta take this. It’s my mom. Now you’ve done it. She wants to talk to you.”

K-9 and the Sheriff are gone.

Andrew walks up to camera and addresses camera.

Andrew: “I’m back. I’m going to talk about the actual trial, how it works, and the different choices you have about how you give the court your testimony.”

FLASH TO:

Image: A split screen, one side showing a trial in the courtroom with witness, the other showing a teen in a separate room, testifying

Andrew: “There is one big decision to make, that’s whether you testify in the courtroom, or you give your testimony out of the courtroom from a room nearby and you’re seen on a TV monitor in the courtroom. This is a decision you can take part in, and as Crown Counsel, you and I can decide what might be best for you.”

CUT TO:

Image: Judge in court

Andrew: But remember, it is ultimately up to the Judge, not you or me, whether you testify in court, or out of court. But, we have the right to ask.”

CUT TO:

Image: A teen (14 or older) providing their oath to the Court Clerk.

Andrew: “But no matter where you eventually give your testimony, there is something that everyone **MUST** do. That’s take an oath, or affirm. Kids under 14 promise to tell the truth, but if you’re older than 14 you take an oath or affirm.”

CUT TO:

Image: Closer shot of witness giving their oath

Andrew: “An oath, or an affirmation, is a promise to tell the truth. And before you give your testimony you must make this promise to the court. An oath is a promise you make with your hand on a religious book, like the Bible, so there is a religious connection. An affirmation is on your own word. The way you choose is totally up to you.”

INTERACTION: An icon appears representing the oath/affirmation, as well as a **CONTINUE** button.

Andrew: “If the oath or affirmation is something you want to talk about more with Crown Counsel, drag the icon into your backpack. You may just want to tell them which way you have chosen to use.

FLASH TO:

Image: Two doors appear on the screen, one reads: **IN COURT**, the other: **OUT OF COURT**

Andrew: “So which road is the road for you? Check out both. Click on one of the doors and it will lead you through the options for testifying either in, or out of the courtroom. Then, you can click on the other door!”

OPTION 1: Testify in court

FLASH TO:

Image: A teen testifying in court

Andrew: “Testifying in court means that you will have to take the witness stand, and answer questions in the actual courtroom.”

CUT TO:

Image: An oath being taken

Andrew: “Don’t forget about the oath. When you arrive at the witness box, the Court Clerk will ask you to promise to tell the truth. Once you’ve given your promise to tell the truth, you can either sit down while you answer questions, or remain standing. It’s up to you!”

CUT TO:

Image: A gallery in the courtroom

Andrew: “In every courtroom there is a gallery. This is where the public sits as they watch the trial. If you are really concerned about speaking in front of the people in the courtroom, you and Crown Counsel can do something about this. There may be a request for an exclusion of the public. If the Judge agrees, this means the public won’t be allowed in the courtroom when you testify. Alternatively, there may be an application to have you testify behind a screen, or even outside the courtroom.”

Image: The people dissolve out of frame

CUT TO:

Image: A teen in court, with a screen set up, separating them from the gallery.

Andrew: “A screen can be set up in court so you can see the Judge, and the lawyers who have to ask you questions, but NOT the accused nor the gallery. So, if the Judge decides it’s important that you be in court along with the public, the screen can block them from your view when you have to testify. The screen will also prevent you from having to see the accused in the courtroom.”

CUT TO:

Image: A courtroom with an example of an OTHER DEVICE

Andrew: “If the Judge doesn’t think a screen is a good idea, you and Crown can request a different device be used to prevent you from having to see other people in the courtroom. Your Crown Counsel knows all the options available to you. Be sure to ask them.”

CUT TO:

Image: A teen in another room, with a support person behind them

Andrew: “You can also request to testify from another room. The lawyers will ask questions either from within the room, or from the courtroom. This is why it is a good idea to have a support person for this set-up, so you will not be in the room alone.”

CUT TO:

Image: A teen in court with a support person behind them.

Andrew: You can request to have this person from your Court Support Team sit near you during your testimony, whether you testify in the courtroom, or outside the courtroom. They won't be allowed to speak, but can be there for support. This could be anyone from a parent, or older sibling, to a Victim Service Worker, whoever you're comfortable with. The only exception is that it cannot be a person who will be a witness in the same trial.”

CUT TO:

Image: An accused speaking in court on their own behalf.

Andrew: “Sometimes the person accused of committing the crime speaks for themselves in court. If this is the case in your trial, and you do not want to have to speak to them, Crown Counsel can request that the accused not be permitted to cross-examine you. Then, a lawyer will be appointed to do this.”

CUT TO:

Image: A busy courtroom

Andrew: “During a trial, besides the usual morning and afternoon breaks, you can ask for a break to use the washroom for example. You can either ask the Crown who will ask the judge, or ask the judge directly.”

INTERACTION: Icons appear representing the options mentioned.

Andrew: “Should you have to testify in court, drag the icons that you'd most like to talk about with Crown Counsel into your information backpack.”

FLASH TO:

Animation: The two doors, as K-9 comes through them, with Sheriffs.

The camera moves through the second door.

Image: A teen in a different room testifying.

Andrew: “”There is more to be said about testifying out of court by closed-circuit television. This is also an option if you do not want to be in the courtroom during the trial.”

CUT TO:

Image: A Court Clerk looking into a camera in court, doing the oath.

Andrew: “You will still take an oath or affirmation to promise to tell the truth, just like you would in the courtroom itself.”

CUT TO:

Image: Teen with lawyers giving testimony in separate room.

Andrew: “Out Of Court: CCTV means that instead of being in the witness box in the courtroom, you will answer your questions in a separate room, while your image is being shown, so the judge and others in the courtroom can see you.”

CUT TO:

Image: Closer on the lawyers.

Andrew: “The lawyers still ask you questions like they would in the courtroom, but the set-up is different. The lawyers are either in the room with you or stay in the courtroom and you see them by camera.”

CUT TO:

Image: Support person in the room with teen.

Andrew: “It is especially important to have a support person if you are in the witness room on your own. You can also request to have someone from your Court Support Team sit near you during your testimony. They won’t be allowed to speak to the lawyers or the judge, but can be there for support. This could be anyone from a parent, or older sibling, to a Victim Service Worker, whoever you’re comfortable with. But not a witness.”

CUT TO:

Image: An accused speaking in court on their own behalf, towards camera.

Andrew: “When the person accused of committing the crime speaks for themselves in court, even if you are testifying outside the courtroom, they can still be prohibited from asking you questions directly. The Crown will ask for this, and if the judge agrees, they will order it and have another lawyer appointed to ask the questions instead.”

CUT TO:

Image: A teen standing in room, stretching.

Andrew: “During your testimony outside the courtroom, you are still allowed to have a break to use the washroom if necessary.”

INTERACTION: Icons representing the various choices present themselves onscreen.

Andrew: “If the possibility of testifying from outside of the courtroom appeals to you, drag any icons into your backpack that you would like to discuss with Crown as possible options.”

CONTINUE BUTTON

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

Title: *After Court*

Animation: K-9 sitting on a lounge chair in a tropical paradise somewhere.

He sips from his drink.

K-9: “Ah...it’s all over. Well kinda...”

The background switches to a courtroom, K-9 seated in the gallery.

K-9: “After you finish testifying, the trial probably won’t be over yet.”

CUT TO:

Image: A teen in gallery as trial continues.

K-9: “Once you’re part is done in the trial, and the Judge has heard your evidence, check with Crown because you can stay in the gallery and watch the rest of the trial if you want to.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Montage of various people in the gallery.

K-9 (whispering): “If you do, you have to realize that a trial is kind of like being in the library. You have to be quiet, and respectful of others.”

FLASH TO:

Image: Trial with a jury, teen in the witness box.

K-9: “Some trials have a jury who decides if the accused is guilty of the crime or not. It’s like having 12 little judges instead of one big one! The judge is there to make sure all the law questions are looked after, but the jury makes the final decision on the verdict.”

INTERACTION: Icons representing, Staying In Court-Post Trial, and Jury appear on the screen.

K-9: “If interested, drag and drop, you know the drill!”

CONTINUE BUTTON

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

EXT. LAW COURTS – DAY

K-9 and Andrew stand together.

K-9: “We make a pretty good team, huh?”

Andrew: “Not bad K-9.”

Andrew addresses camera.

Andrew: “Click the link below to see what’s in your shopping cart. Bring it to your meeting with Crown, so you’re sure nothing gets forgotten.”

Screen access to print out.