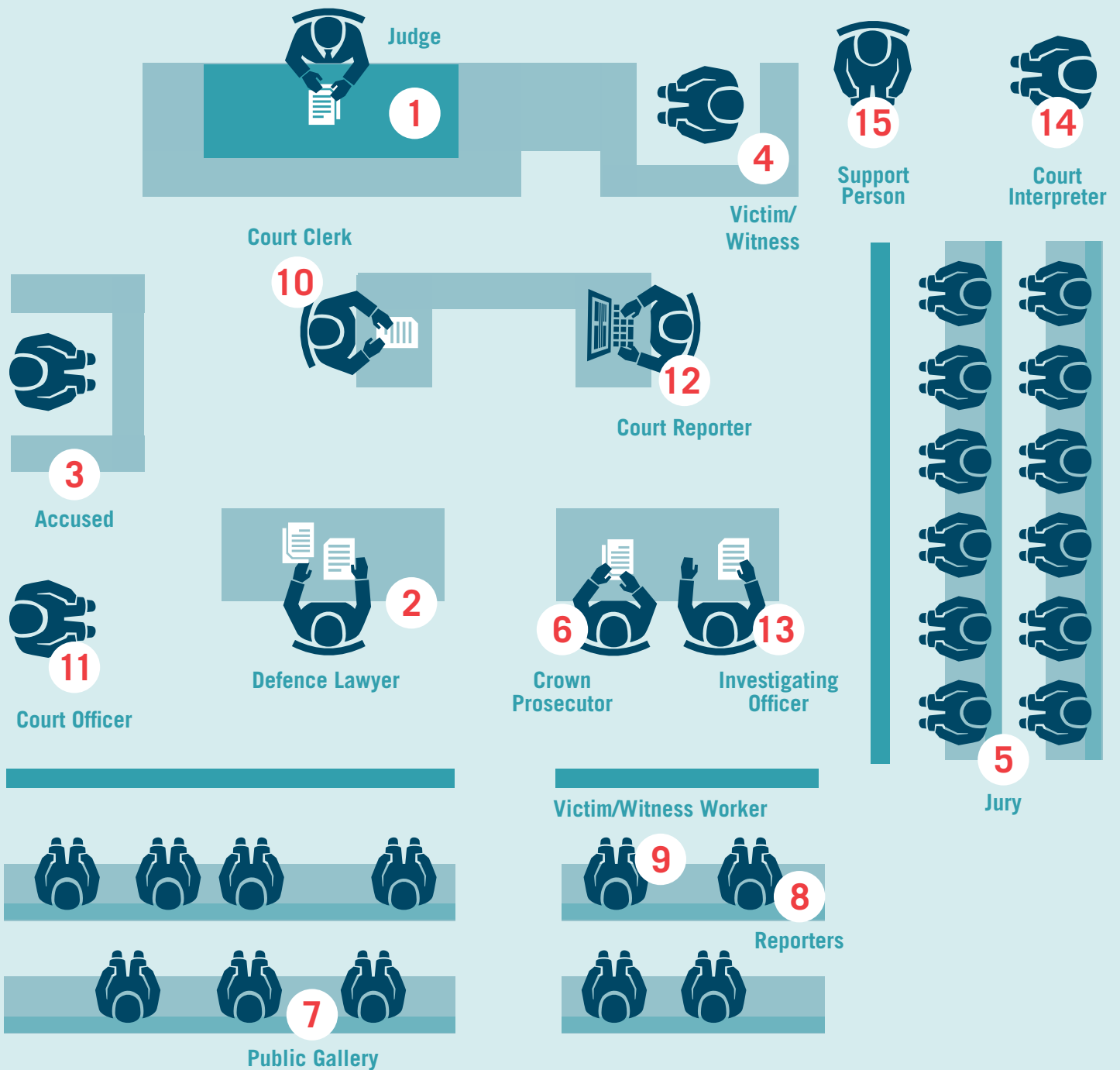




# IN THE COURTROOM

This picture is one example of what a courtroom may look like and the people the victim may see inside.





# IN THE COURTROOM

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- 1** The **judge or justice** is in charge of the Court. He or she listens to what is said in court and decides if the accused is guilty, unless there is a jury that makes this decision instead.
- 2** A **defence lawyer** is a lawyer who represents a person charged with a criminal offence.
- 3** The **accused** is the person charged with committing a criminal offence.
- 4** A **victim/witness** testifies in court to provide evidence in the case. The witness can be called to give evidence by the prosecutor or by the defence.
- 5** Some criminal trials involve a **jury**. The jury is a group of twelve persons who listen to what is said in court and decide if the accused committed the offence.
- 6** A **prosecutor** is a government lawyer who presents the evidence to show that an offence was committed by the accused. This person may also be called a Crown Attorney.
- 7** The **public gallery** is a seating area in the courtroom where members of the public may sit to observe what happens in court.
- 8** **Reporters** are often in the courtroom to report information about the case. The Court can order that reporters not publish certain information in order to protect the identity of a victim or witness.
- 9** A **victim/witness worker** can provide information and help to victims during the criminal justice process, for example by helping a victim or witness cope with testifying at trial or to present a victim impact statement when the offender is sentenced.
- 10** The **court clerk** helps the judge in the courtroom, for example by making the court schedule, calling the Court to order, or reading the charges against the accused to everyone in court.
- 11** The **court officer** helps to keep people safe in the courtroom. If the accused is being kept in jail, the court officer will escort the accused to and from the courtroom.
- 12** The **court reporter** records what is said in the courtroom by repeating what he or she hears into a recording machine or by typing it into a computer.
- 13** The **investigating officer** is the police officer who investigated the crime and who helps make sure the prosecutor has all the information he or she needs to make a case against the accused.
- 14** The **court interpreter** translates what is said in court so the witness or accused can use the official language they feel most comfortable using.
- 15** A **support person** is a person who the Court has agreed can be present and close to the witness when he or she gives testimony in court. This person may not be present in all situations.