

How to make justice child-friendly: The children's view

Each year many children are part of legal proceedings.

These include criminal proceedings or divorce.

Often practices are not child-friendly.



We asked children how to respect their rights and make justice more child-friendly:



Right to be heard

"People who run the interviews - they should be calm and friendly. It is the key thing."

"I felt good because someone listened to me, took me seriously, listened until I was finished without interrupting me. Finally, I could tell somebody about this and I felt relieved."



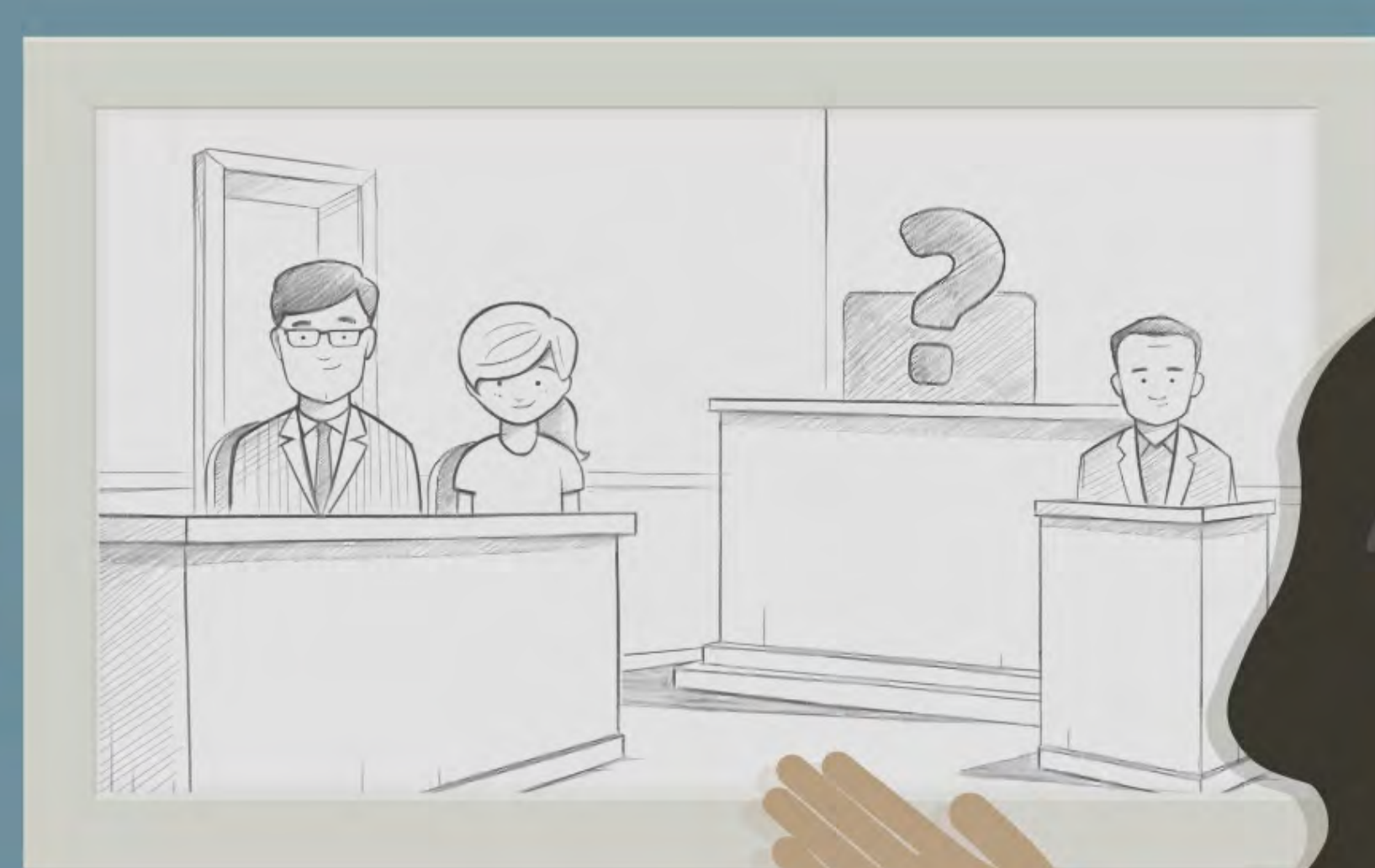
"They shouldn't torture the child to tell the story so many times... But just tell it once ... tell someone, and then they should transfer all testimony to the judge and the child should not be called in again. And in the worst case, [the child should tell] the judge... but not in court."

Right to information

"It would have been nice to have been kept up-to-date, we did go months without knowing and wondering."

"I think it's important to inform a child, so they can understand. What the place is for: for the child to feel more comfortable going there. So they know where they are going and why."

"Say it to me with normal words. If you explain things calmly, relaxed, in a good atmosphere I think the child will understand"



Right to be protected

"I had to wait outside the hearing room on a bench. During the whole time, you were afraid that the defendant could exit the court room. All of them may leave it anytime."

"[I felt] as if I were in jail ... because I would see people handcuffed. It gave me shivers... I didn't like it."



"It helps kids know that they can confide in someone like you, and they feel better... and that's good to know, that there are people you could tell everything... without fear, things like that."

Based on FRA's report on: *Child-friendly justice*
fra.europa.eu/en/theme/rights-child/publications
For FRA animations on each of these rights see:
fra.europa.eu/en/theme/rights-child/videos