



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #45 – Prosecutors

Maggie Says... *As a dog, almost everyone is friendly to me. But sometimes, people or other dogs can do something that is mean or hurtful to others. No one feels good when this happens, but who should be responsible for helping make things right?*

Today's lesson is about Prosecutors: *When people are accused of breaking the law, it is our responsibility to figure out the truth and if they really did break it, to make things right. Everyone can have a lawyer represent them in court,*

and the Prosecutor is the lawyer whose job it is to represent us (the citizens and the government) in court and to investigate and prove that people broke the law. Prosecutors are elected by the citizens, and because they represent the citizens, they must obey many strict rules and high standards of behavior.

Sticky Situation: Imagine someone comes into your school and takes all the recess equipment and toys. This is unfair to everyone in your school, because now no one can enjoy recess as much. Is it important to find out the truth of what happened to the recess toys and who took them? Should we ask someone to do this on behalf of all of us?

What a Prosecutor does: When someone breaks the law, it is called committing a crime. When someone is accused of committing a crime, we must first figure out whether they actually did it before punishing them. The Prosecutor's job is to work on behalf of all the citizens to find out the truth about crimes by investigating them. If the Prosecutor thinks they have figured out the truth, they then will go to court to convince the judge and the jury that someone has actually committed a crime and should be punished.

Activity: If you had to choose someone to be a Prosecutor, who would you choose and why? What qualities does this person have that you think would make them good at this job? Would you want them to be honest? This will help you understand what types of people would make good Prosecutors and why they are important in our legal system.

Civic Resources: To learn more about the Prosecutors and other roles in court, check out: <https://www.playkidscourt.com/>