

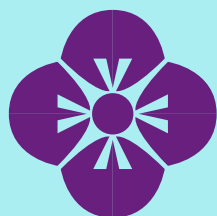
# Felix Goes *to* Court



A Storybook

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**Public Legal Education  
and Information Service  
of New Brunswick**

P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1  
Telephone: (506) 453-5369  
Fax: (506) 462-5193  
Email: [pleisnb@web.ca](mailto:pleisnb@web.ca)  
[www.legal-info-legale-nb.ca](http://www.legal-info-legale-nb.ca)



[www.gnb.ca/publicsafety](http://www.gnb.ca/publicsafety)



## Welcome to my story.

Somebody hurt me on purpose. I am only a puppy, but even so, I must go to court to tell what happened. That's called **testifying**.

If you are the victim of a crime like me, you may be asked to tell the court what happened. That might make you feel afraid.

I hope this story gives you tips about going to court. These tips may help you feel less scared.





Felix lives with his family in a little home on a hill. Felix's favorite toy is a little red ball that is fun to roll down the hill.





One day, the ball rolled too far. It went across the street and under a fence.





Felix crawled under the fence. He didn't notice an adult dog watching him. Suddenly the Big Dog ran up and bit Felix's paw. It hurt a lot.





Felix limped home. “Mom!” he called, whimpering. “I’m hurt. Help!!”





“Oh no!!” said his mother. “I’ll call 911!” The ambulance came and took Felix to the hospital. The doctor fixed up his leg.





The next day Officer Sara and Officer Robb came over to Felix's house. "Please tell us what happened," they said. Felix told them what Big Dog had done to him. "I'm scared," said Felix. "Don't worry," said the police officers. "We will refer you to Victim Services. They can help you feel better in lots of ways."





“I still have nightmares,” Felix told his Mom. “It makes me feel sad.”  
“Cheer up,” said his Mom. “Victim Services called. They want to meet with us tomorrow. They can get help for puppies like you. And you can bring your monkey with you.”





Felix and his mother went to the Victim Services Office and met Marie. “Felix is feeling nervous,” said his Mom. “He cries a lot. Can you help him?” “Yes, we can.” said Marie. “It’s not unusual to be nervous about going to court. We can find a therapist that Felix can talk to about his feelings.”





A while later a letter arrived at Felix's home. It said that Big Dog was charged with a crime and would be going to court. Felix would have to go to court and tell what happened.





Felix and his Mom went back to Victim Services to talk about going to court. “Does Felix have to be in the courtroom?” asked Felix’s Mom. “We can ask the judge to let Felix sit in another room. He can talk to the people in the courtroom on a TV screen,” said Marie. “No matter where you sit, Felix, you must promise to tell the truth.”



“Will I be all alone?” asked Felix, as tears came to his eyes. “You won’t be alone when you testify,” said Marie. “I will be sitting right beside you for support when you tell the court what happened.”





Kathryn, the Crown prosecutor, also met with Felix and his Mom. She explained to them: “The judge will listen to everyone’s story about what happened, and then decide if Big Dog is guilty.”



When the day of the trial arrived, Felix was ready. With everyone's help, he was not worried about testifying. He took three deep breaths and told himself, "I will do just fine."





Felix was allowed to testify outside of the courtroom through a TV. The Crown prosecutor and the defence lawyer asked Felix a lot of questions. It was stressful, but it helped Felix to have Marie with him for support.



After Felix finished answering questions in court, his Mom took him for a treat. “You were so brave, and I am so proud of you! You did an important job telling the court what happened,” she told Felix.





A few weeks later, Marie phoned Felix and his Mom to tell them that the judge had decided that Big Dog was guilty.





Felix and his Mom were asked to fill out an Impact Statement form to tell the court how the crime had harmed them. Felix decided to draw a picture to show the court how he felt.





The judge ordered Big Dog to help clean up in the community, stay away from Felix, and behave himself.





Felix is feeling much better these days. “Thanks to everyone who helped me!”



In memory of  
Lawrence Robert Costello "Robb" and  
Sara Mae Burns,  
Fredericton Police officers,  
who tragically lost their lives on duty  
on August 10, 2018.







# LAW COURTS • PALAIS DE JUSTICE

*Felix Goes to Court* helps explain what happens when a child victim goes to court, and how the police, Victim Services, and Crown prosecutors can help along the way.

