

## **TRIAL PROCEDURES**

At your trial, the City Prosecutor will first present evidence against you. Then you will have a chance to tell your side of the story. At the trial, the Prosecutor must prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The Prosecutor will call witnesses to testify about the facts alleged in the charge. When each witness has finished answering the Prosecutor's questions, you or your attorney will have the right to question the witness. This is called cross-examination. Cross-examination is not a time when you can testify or argue with the witness. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions in an attempt to determine that the testimony given by a witness is not only truthful but also complete.

After all witnesses for the City have testified, you will have an opportunity to present your case, if you wish to do so. You may call witnesses to testify in your defense. Any witness who testifies on your behalf may also be questioned by the Prosecutor. You also may testify in your own defense if you wish to do so. If you do testify, you may be questioned by the Prosecutor. You also have the right to remain silent at your trial and rely on your presumption of innocence and present no evidence of any kind at your trial.

If you have presented any evidence in your case, the Prosecutor has the right to present "rebuttal" evidence. Rebuttal evidence is evidence that explains or denies your evidence.

After all witnesses have testified, each side may give a closing argument. This is not an opportunity to provide new evidence to the Judge. Rather, it is an opportunity to tell the Judge why you should be found not guilty or guilty based on the evidence that has already been presented. The Judge must then decide if you are guilty or not guilty. If you are found guilty, the Judge will assess a punishment, considering the seriousness of the offense and any explanation offered by you during your evidence. If the Judge finds you not guilty, you are free to go without a punishment and your case will be a closed record as defined by Missouri law.