

BRAVE
MAYA



HI!

This is a book about a little kid named Maya and something that happened in Maya's family.

Maya met some new grown-ups and went to some new places. Maya learned about feelings, asking for help, and some things to do to feel better.

Stuff like this happens to lots of kids and families. And Maya wants you to know that YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

This book is yours. You can draw, color, and write in it. And you can keep it.

THIS IS MAYA.







**Maya was a little kid with curly hair.
She loved horses, playing on swings, and
making up silly songs with her friends.**



One day, two grown-ups came to Maya's house.
They asked her mommy a lot of questions.



**They asked Maya a lot of questions about how
her mommy takes care of her.**

Maya's mommy got mad and yelled at the other grown-ups, "Get out of my house!"



Maya didn't like when Mommy yelled.

"Ma'am, please calm down," one of the grown-ups said.



**"We'll see you at the meeting," they said.
"Please bring Maya with you."**



After the grown-ups left, Maya asked, "What's wrong, Mommy?"

"Those people think I'm not taking good care of you."

"Are they coming back?" Maya asked.

"Maybe. But we have to go see them at their office."

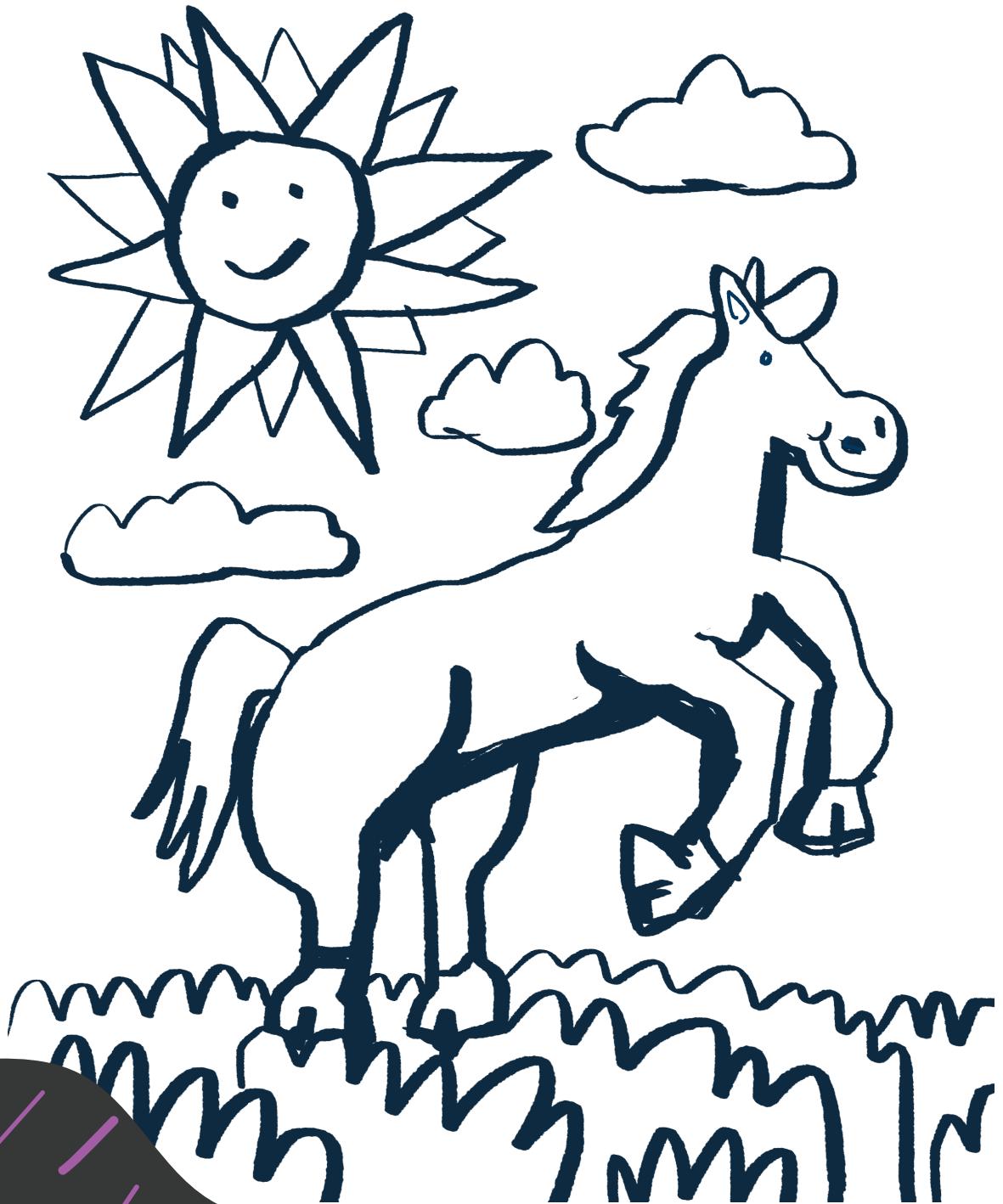




ACTIVITY.

Seeing her mommy yell made Maya feel scared and sad.

Sometimes drawing and coloring made Maya feel better. So she drew this horse.



What do you like to draw? You can draw something here next to Maya's drawing.

**Later, Maya and her
mommy went to see the
grown-ups.**

They talked for a long time.

**Then the grown-ups asked
Maya to go to another
room so they could ask her
questions.**



Maya didn't want to, but her mommy said it was okay.

"Am I in trouble?" Maya asked them.

The lady with the glasses said, "Not at all! We want to help you and your family, Maya."

The grown-ups asked Maya some questions.



**After, the man with the
beard said, "How are you
feeling?"**

Maya said, "I'm tired."



"Thanks for talking with us," the lady with the glasses said. "Some kids think it's hard to answer all those questions, but you did a really good job."



**"Sometimes, when I have to do something hard, or
I feel scared or worried, I try this."**

She showed Maya.



ACTIVITY.

Do you ever get scared or worried?
You can try what Maya learned.



1.

Put your hands on
your tummy.



2.

Take one deep breath
in, counting 1 – 2 – 3.
Feel your tummy go up
when you breathe in.



3.

Then breathe out,
counting 1 – 2 – 3.
Feel your tummy
go down.



5.

Take a third deep breath
in, counting 1 – 2 – 3.
Then breathe out,
counting 1 – 2 – 3.

4.

Take another deep
breath in, counting
1 – 2 – 3. Then breathe
out, counting 1 – 2 – 3.

That always makes Maya feel better.
How do you feel after trying it?



**One day, Maya's mommy left
her with Auntie.**

**"Where are you going,
Mommy?"**

**"I have to go to another
meeting. I'll be back later. Be
good for Auntie."**



That day Auntie gave Maya
a coloring book. And she
made chocolate chip cookies.
Maya's favorite!



**When her mommy
came back, Maya
heard her talk to
Auntie.**

**"They said I have to
get help taking care of
Maya and keeping her
safe."**

**"What kind of help?"
Auntie asked.**

**"I have to take a
parenting class and
go to counseling
to talk about my
feelings. I really hope
they don't take Maya
away from me..."**



That made Maya scared!



Maya ran to hug her mommy.

"I don't want to go away!" Maya yelled.



**"You're not going anywhere, Maya!
Come on, let's go home."**

Maya felt better. She went back to doing her everyday things.



She played. She drew horses. She sang.



Sometimes Mommy left Maya with Auntie, but she always came back.

One day, the phone rang.

**Maya heard Mommy say, "Yes. I understand.
We'll be there."**



"What's wrong, Mommy?"
Maya asked.



"We have to go to court,"
Mommy said.



"Like on TV?" asked Maya.

**"This court is a place families go
when they need help," Mommy said.**



**"What's going to happen?"
Maya asked.**

"I don't know, Maya."

There were a lot of people at court, and other kids, too.

One lady came to talk to Maya.



"Hi, Maya. I'm Sam. It's nice to meet you. I work with kids who come to court. It's my job to help you and make sure you know what's happening."

"Oh," Maya said softly. "What's going to happen?"

"I'm not sure yet," Sam said, "but let's sit and talk."





Sam said, "Do you know why you're here?"

"To get help?" Maya asked.



"Right," Sam said.

**"What kind of help?"
Maya asked.**



"Different things, like with keeping the house clean, having enough food or clean clothes."

"Some parents go to a school with other parents, or talk to a counselor about their feelings."

"I love my mommy. She takes good care of me!"

Sam said, "Thanks for telling me that, Maya."



Then she said, "You might have a lot of feelings about what's happening. Let's talk about what they might be."

ACTIVITY.

Sam showed Maya a book with pictures like these. She used the pictures to talk about her different feelings.



Sad



Yucky



Happy



Angry





How do you think Maya felt? Can you point to the faces that show that?

How do you feel? Point to the faces that show how you are feeling.



Calm



Worried



Scared



Surprised



"Everyone has a job in court," Sam told Maya. "The people that came to your house will talk about your family and what your mommy does to take care of you. Your mommy will have someone like me to help her talk in court, too."



**"Do I have a job?"
Maya asked.**



STICKERS.

These are the people in the courtroom. You can put these stickers on the courtroom drawing on pages 42-43.



Child Protective Services (CPS)

Attorney for Child (AFC)

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

**Court-Appointed Special
Advocate (CASA)**

Family/Victim Advocate



Social Worker



Judge



**Attorney
or Assigned Counsel**



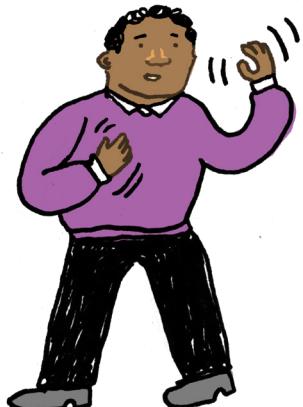
Judge's Helpers



Court Officer



Police



Interpreter



Court Reporter



"Yes, your job is to tell the grown-ups about yourself. What you like to do, what you like to eat, how your mommy takes care of you. The judge might ask you to come to the courtroom."



"What if I get my mommy in trouble?"

**"Kids can't get mommies in trouble.
It's Mommy's job to take care of you,
and it's all of our jobs to help your
family."**



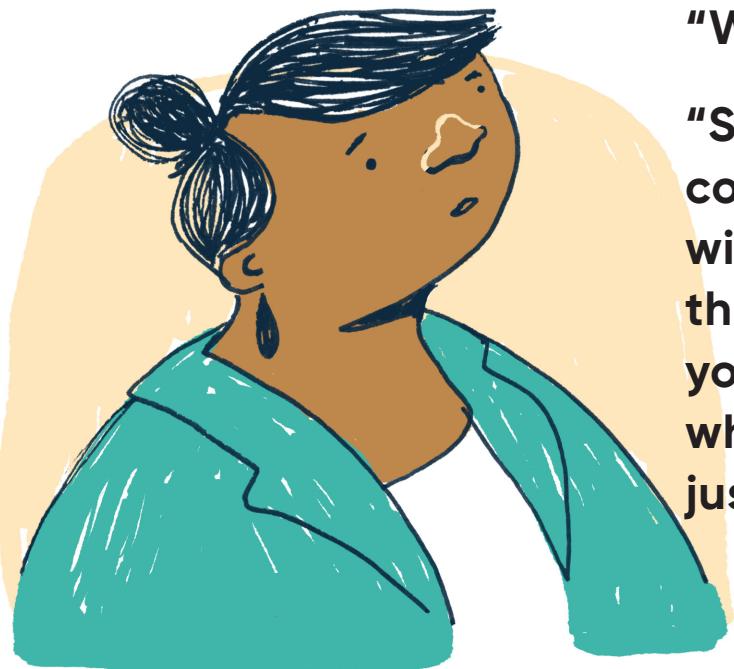


Maya asked Sam, "What is it like if the judge asks you to come to the courtroom?"



"Well, it depends," Sam said.

"Some judges will ask you to come in and answer questions with all the other grown-ups there. Some judges will ask you questions in their office where it's quiet. And some will just say hi to you."



A woman with dark hair tied back in a bun is sitting in a wheelchair. She is wearing a teal blazer over a white shirt and light blue pants. Her hands are clasped in her lap. To her right, a young girl with curly hair tied back is sitting on the floor, facing the woman. The girl is wearing a purple vest over a white shirt.

"I'm not sure what will happen, Maya, but if you have to go to court, we can work on things that will make it feel less scary."

Then she said, "Do you want to go see the courtroom with me?"

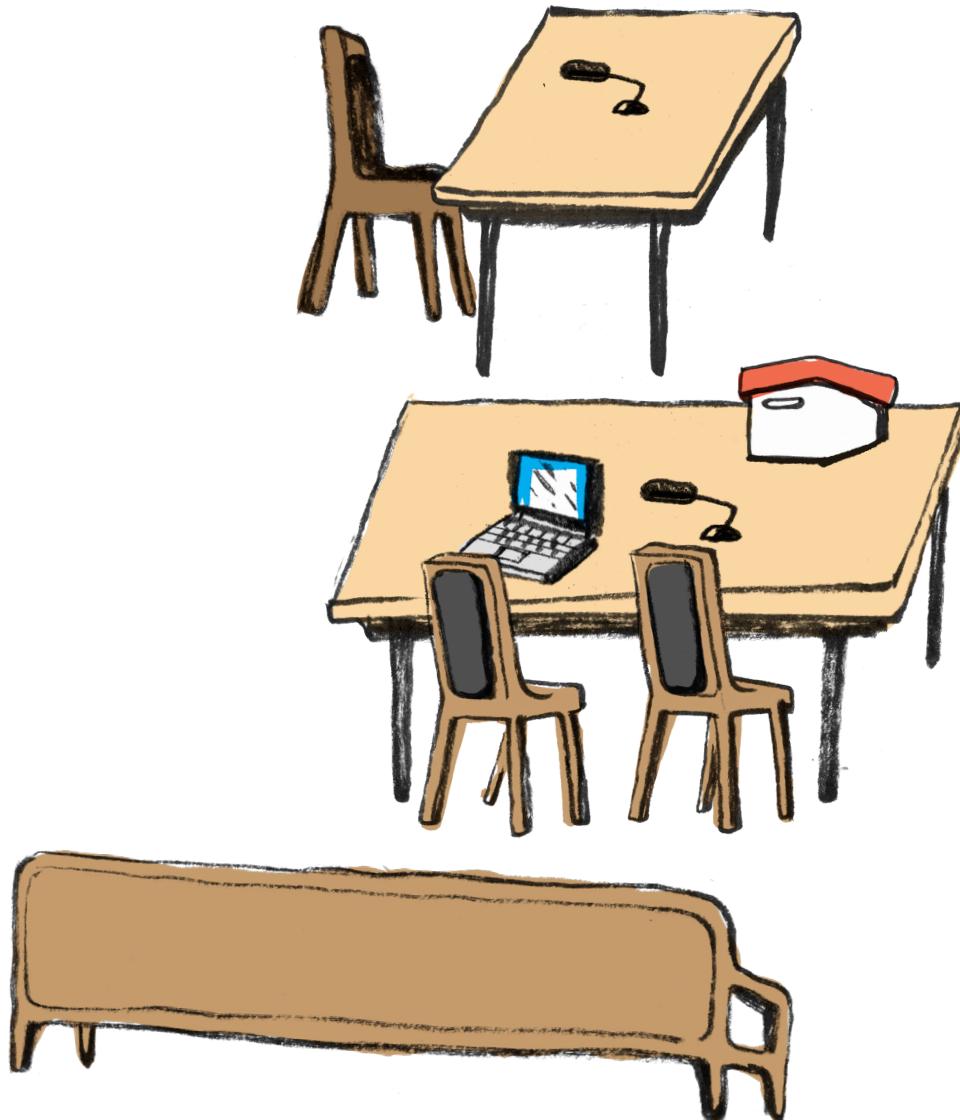
"Okay."

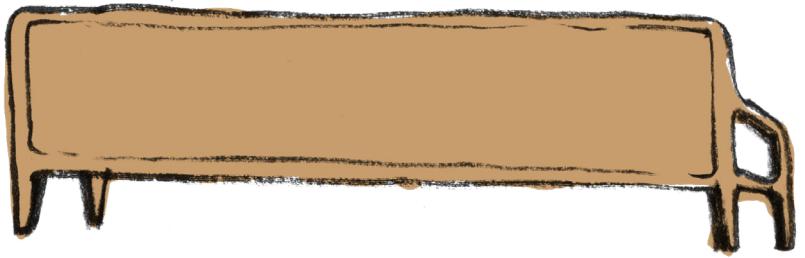
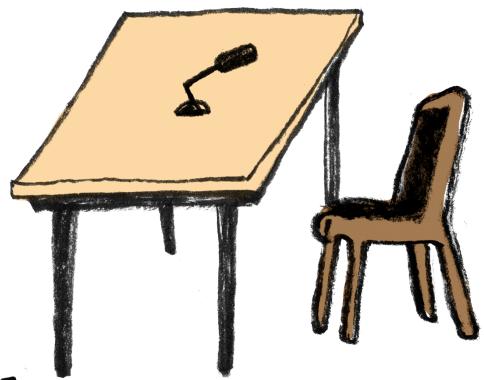
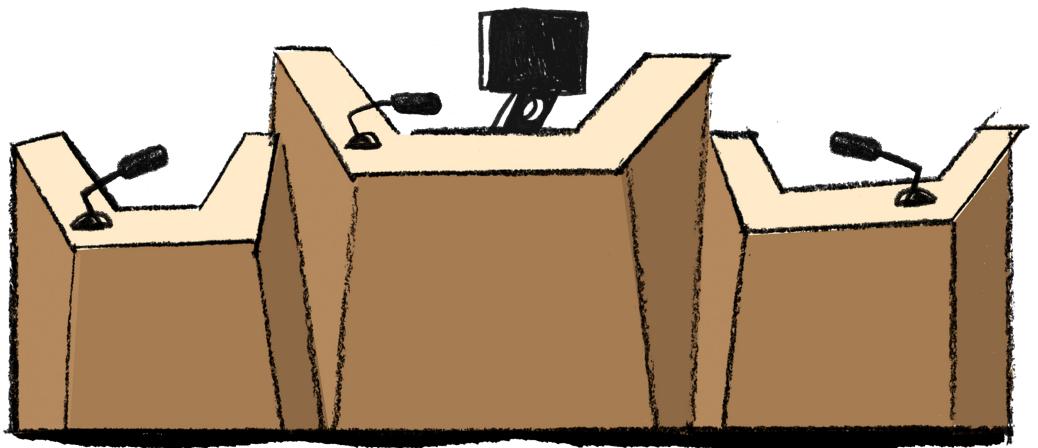
ACTIVITY.

Sam took Maya to visit the courtroom to show what it would be like.

Here is what Maya's courtroom looked like. Yours might look a little different but it will have some of the same people.

Ask a grown-up to talk with you about who all the people in the court are.





Later, Maya found out the judge did want her to go to court.



When it was time to go to court, Maya put on her nice dress with the pockets.

She put her favorite toy horse in her pocket.

Sam was waiting at the courthouse.

"How do you feel?" she asked.

"My tummy hurts," Maya said.

"How come?"

**"I'm scared someone will be mean
to me. Or what if I don't understand?"**



"Okay. What can you do if you feel scared?"



Maya said, "I can squeeze the horse in my pocket."

"I can take a deep breath."

"I can say, 'I don't understand.' "

"That's right!" Sam said.



ACTIVITY.

Maya told Sam all the things she was worried about, and Sam helped her get ready for court.

How do you feel about going to court?

Here are some of the tips Sam gave Maya. Check off the ones you want to try.

- You can ask questions about anything you don't understand.
- Sam told Maya to look for her if she got scared. Look for someone you know who can help you feel calm.
- You can take as long as you need to answer. You don't have to rush.
- You can ask to take a break any time.
- Taking deep breaths helped Maya calm down. What helps you feel calm?

- Maya loved her horses. She brought her favorite one to court in her pocket so she could squeeze it to feel calmer. Do you have something like that you could bring with you?
- If you have a prayer or song or other thing that helps you feel calm, you can try using it.
- To give her something to look forward to, Maya asked to go to her favorite park after. Is there something nice you can look forward to?

Which of these will you try?

"What if I say something wrong? Will I get in trouble?" Maya asked.

"Nothing you say would be wrong. The judge will ask you to tell the truth. Just answer the best you can."

**"Remember, I'll be in the room, too.
You can look at me."**



"Maya, the grown-ups need your help, but lots of people are working together to help your family. Telling them about you will help them be able to do that."



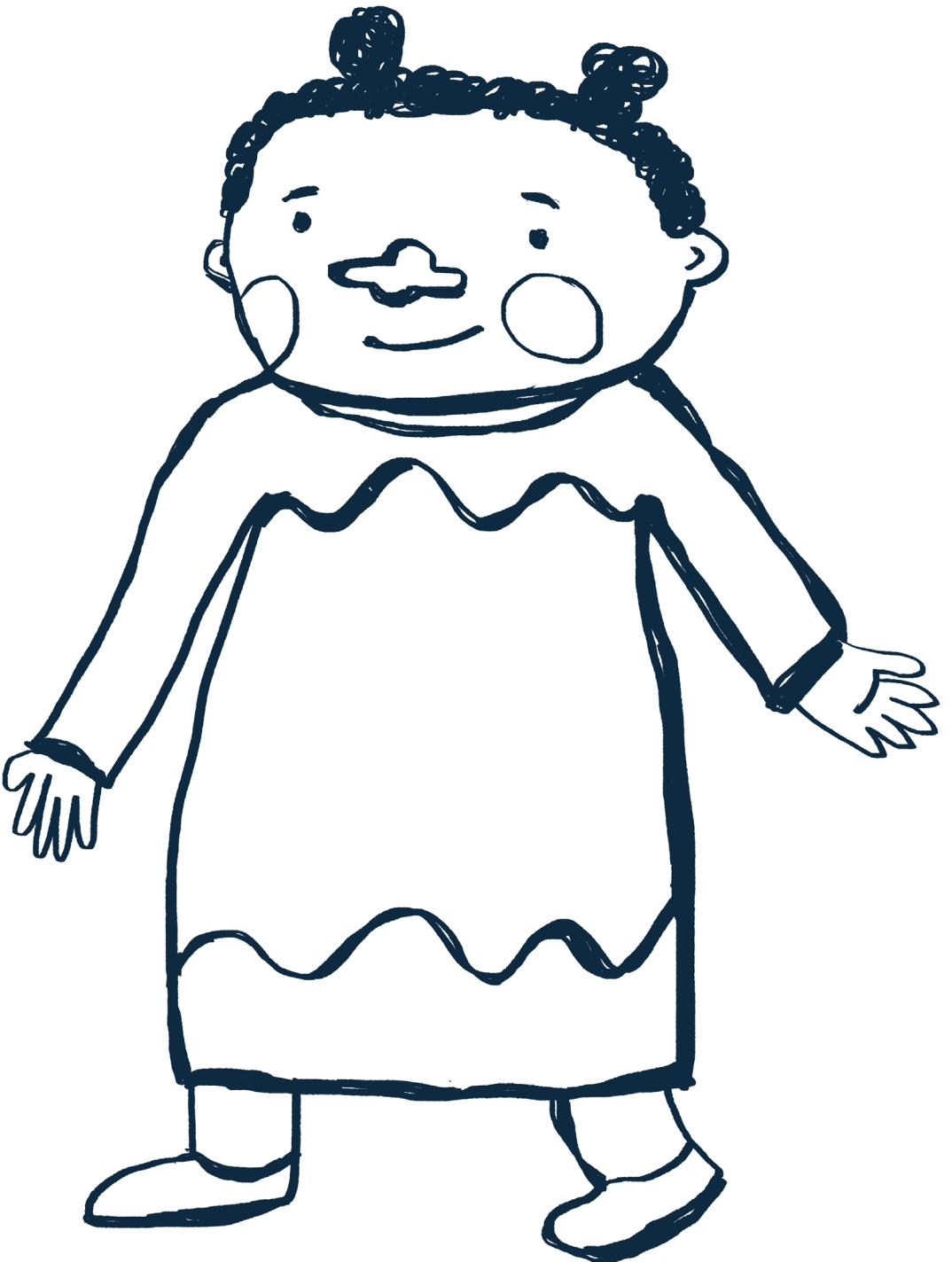
**"Okay," Maya said.
"Tell me again what
will happen?"**

ACTIVITY.

Maya felt better when she thought about what she wanted it to be like when she went to court.



She drew a picture of herself feeling brave. Can you color in the picture of Brave Maya?



An officer came to get Maya. They went into the courtroom together and Maya stood near the judge.



**It looked like Sam's drawing.
But the judge was different
than she pictured.**



Maya looked around the room.

She saw the grown-ups that had come to her house. She saw her mommy. And she saw other people she didn't know.



The judge was up in his chair. He walked down to Maya and said, "Hi, I'm Judge Ravi. What's your name?"

"I'm Maya."



**"Nice to meet you, Maya." Judge Ravi said.
"How old are you? Are you 10?"**

"No! I'm 5!"

"Wow! I thought you were 10!"

"Well, welcome to the courtroom. I just wanted to say hello. You can play in the other room now if you want. Thanks for coming to see me today."





Sam and Maya went to another room and played.

Before Maya knew it, it was time to go home again.



"What happens now?" Maya asked.

"The grown-ups will decide how to help your family. They will tell us as soon as they decide," Sam said.

"You did a really great job today, Maya."

Maya smiled, but she wasn't sure if she was happy or not.



Maya went home and things went back to normal.

For a while, she kept waiting to hear what would happen. But then she forgot about it.



**It was summer time now, and she got to
play at the swings almost every day.**

One day Maya and her mommy went to see Sam again.

"Hi Maya!" Sam said, "I have some news from the judge. He says he wants us all to help your mommy work on some things right now."



"So your mommy is going to take some classes like at school. And the judge wants you to meet with a nice woman named Anya, too."

"Who is she?" Maya asked.

Mommy said, "Anya is a counselor. Her job is to play with you and talk about your feelings. You can bring your horse when you go see her, too."



"And will those other people come back to our house again?" Maya asked.

Sam said, "They might, but right now, we're all going to do our best to help your mommy, okay?"

**"I know it's been hard for you, Maya," Mommy said,
"but I'm working really hard to do all the things the
judge asked me to."**



Maya felt a little bit better.



**She would still have to go see Anya, but was happy
that all the meetings and visits and talking with
grown-ups was over for now.**

She was ready to just be herself again.





She had lots and lots of horses she wanted to draw.

ACTIVITY.

Maya got help from Sam and other people in her life, like her Auntie, her mommy, and her friends.

FRIENDS
& OTHER
GROWN-UPS

FAMILY

YOU

Who are the people who help you? What do they do that helps you? Can you draw them or write their names here?



The Center for Court Innovation's Child Witness Materials Project is a collaborative effort between the Center for Court Innovation and the Center for Urban Pedagogy, and is supported by cooperative agreement #2016-VF-GX-K011, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Center for Court Innovation works to create a more effective and humane justice system by performing original research and helping launch reforms around the world.

www.courtinnovation.org

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The Office for Victims of Crime is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

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The Office of Justice Programs is a federal agency that provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources to improve the Nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its six program offices—the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking—support state and local crime-fighting efforts, fund thousands of victim service programs, help communities manage sex offenders, address the needs of youth in the system and children in danger, and provide vital research and data.



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC

