

Message from the Chief Justice

Video transcript

Chief Justice Anne Ferguson

Hello my name's Anne Ferguson and I'm the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Open justice is an important part of our democracy.

As Chief Justice I want people to understand the way that courts work and the role that they play in our open justice system.

The Supreme Court hears Victoria's most difficult cases and does so in a fair, just and impartial way.

We know that many people simply can't come to court each day to watch a major trial.

We made this video to give you a quick look at justice at work through a criminal trial.

It's not a real case.

The characters are fictional and the facts are made up but our video will still show you the types of things that happen in real criminal trials.

Our video shows you the role of the judge prosecution, defense and witnesses, how trials are run and the factors that a judge takes into account when sentencing someone who's been convicted of a crime.

The right to a fair trial is a fundamental part of our legal system.

In criminal trials the judge tells the jury what the law is and the jury decides whether the accused is guilty or innocent.

This video depicts a criminal trial.

Judges in the Supreme Court also decide and help to resolve other disputes involving companies or people where there's no crime that's committed.

We call these civil disputes.

If you want to know more about how the law works in practice you can listen to our judges sentencing remarks and read their judgments on our website.

Sentencing remarks tell you why the judge has decided to impose a particular sentence on a convicted person.

If you have the time, please come to our court and walk into our courtrooms, they're almost always open to the public.

If you visit us, you'll be able to watch a real-life court case.

In the meantime we hope you enjoy this video.