

COURT CASES



CASE #1

Kevin was babysitting one afternoon at a neighbor's house. He left his cell phone at home, and wanted to call a friend who was visiting relatives in another country. He asked if it was okay to use the phone, and the neighbor said yes. Kevin didn't say he would be making an international call.

Kevin ran up a big charge on his neighbor's phone bill. The neighbor says that Kevin owes him an afternoon of babysitting to pay for it. Kevin says that he doesn't owe anything because he had permission to use the phone.

CASE #2

Megan brought some firecrackers to school. She gave a few firecrackers to Julia and dared her to light one in class. Julia said that she would only set it off if Megan set one off too.

Julia set off a firecracker, but Megan didn't. Julia was suspended from school. Julia claims that Megan is the one who should be suspended, since she brought the firecrackers to school. Megan claims that since Julia lit the firecracker in class, she is the one who should be suspended.

CASE #3

Robert's soccer team supplies uniforms and shoes for the players. They are supposed to be worn to practices and games. Robert doesn't like them.

At the first practice, Robert said he forgot his uniform and shoes. The coach let him play anyway. At the second practice, Robert said his uniform was in the wash, and his shoes were in his mother's car. The coach benched him. When Robert showed up without his uniform and shoes the third time, the coach sent him home.

Robert claims that the coach didn't warn him and that the coach is unfair. The coach says that if Robert won't wear his uniform and shoes, then he can't play.

CASE #4

Keisha finished her math test early. She was bored and began drawing and writing on a page of her notebook. She kept looking at her friend in the next row. Her friend finally looked at Keisha and mouthed, "What are you doing?" Keisha held up her notebook and her friend bent toward her to look. The teacher gave both girls failing grades.

The teacher claims that the girls were cheating. The girls claim that they weren't doing anything wrong.

I REALLY NEED A JOB

I really need a job. The problem is, I'm only 14. Any ideas about how I can make some money?

M. F., 14, Georgia

It's almost impossible to get hired when you're under 16, but if you're really ambitious and a little creative, you can be the boss by starting your own business! Daryl Bernstein, who wrote a book about small-business ideas when he was 15 called *Better Than a Lemonade Stand* (Beyond Words Publishing), advises: "First, think about your skills and what interests you. Love animals? Maybe a dog-walking business would be right for you. Always wake up early? Start a wake-up service. Next,

map out what supplies you'll need (a pooper scooper and plastic bags for dog walkers, a phone for wake-up calls), what to charge and how much time you have to do it. Make some fliers to advertise with and you're set." Another tip? Listen when adults around you start complaining about things they never get done. Whether it's gift-wrapping, organizing photo albums or delivering dry cleaning, there's plenty to do if you really want to make money.

*Reprinted with permission from *React* magazine.