

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

You be the Judge

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____ Date: _____

You be the Judge is a legal puzzle designed to exercise your mind and reasoning power. Read the facts of this real life court case. Then put your judgment against that of the real jury or trial judge.

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29. To Kidnap or Not To Kidnap?



Jennifer Espinoza was in the waiting room of the child welfare office to contest the removal of her daughter from her custody. While waiting, she and Justin Parker conspired to take her daughter away from the child welfare agency. Jennifer produced a hand gun during the meeting and took the child from the agency by threatening to shoot anyone who tried to stop her. The law in Alaska provides that a parent cannot be convicted of kidnapping their own children. Jennifer is not charged with kidnapping her child, but is charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Even though Justin was not aware of the gun at the time he agreed to help her take her child he is charged by the district attorney with conspiring to help kidnap the child. Justin is not a legal parent of the child.

Can he be tried for conspiring to kidnap Jennifer's daughter and found guilty?

How do you think the case should have been decided?
