

Presenting the Case

Witnesses

As in all criminal trials, the State will present its case first by calling witnesses to testify against you.

Cross-Examination

After prosecution witnesses have finished testifying, you have the right to cross-examine.

- You may ask the witnesses questions about their testimony or any other facts relevant to the case.
 - You cannot argue with the witness.
 - Your cross-examination of the witness must be in the form of questions only.
 - You may not tell your version of the incident at this time. You will have an opportunity to do so later in the trial.
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Your Case

After the prosecution has presented its case, you may present your case.

- You have the right to call any witness who knows anything about the incident.
 - The State has the right to cross-examine any witness that you call.
 - If you so desire, you may testify on your own behalf, but as a defendant, you cannot be compelled to testify. It is your choice, and your silence cannot be used against you.
 - If you do testify, the State has the right to cross-examine you.
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Closing Arguments

After all, testimony is concluded, both sides can make a closing argument. This is your opportunity to tell the court why you think you are not guilty of the offense charged. The State has the right to present the first and last arguments. The closing argument can be based only on the testimony presented during the trial.