

Workshop: role-play

In order to get a good result, it is advisable to work only with volunteering participants. Role-play requires people to step out of their comfort zone, so not everyone is so keen to jump in. Participants will need some time to prepare (10 minutes or so) and get into their role.

The roles will be: the child(ren), the parent(s), the lawyer, the judge, the prosecutor. The background info can be used or not, up to the participants.)

May-Li and San-ho, 9 y old twins, are caught in the middle in their parents' divorce for 2 years already. Their mom will be moving to another town, some 50 km away, with her new partner and the parents enroll them in 2 schools, so that they have to switch weekly as they live alternatively with mom and dad.

(some background info:

- May-Li is very outspoken on this whole settlement and she wants to live with her dad as she does not like her mom's new partner.
- San-ho has become very quiet throughout the whole family breakup and simply wants his parents to get together again
- The mother would do anything to make her new relationship work.
- The father is still a little depressed about the whole breakup but does not want to give up the fight immediately.)

Tim, 16, drug user, mostly cannabis. Stands trial in juvenile court where he gets the choice: juvenile detention for 4 months or drug rehab programme. He prefers the detention and his lawyer wants to plead for the rehab.

(some background info:

- Tim has been in and out of youth care most of his life and has seen it all. He is not very impressed by the whole system and thinks that a couple of months in youth detention will be easier than rehab. He does not want to quit using drugs.
- Tim's lawyer has known Tim for quite some time and wants him to get out of his circle of drug using friends. He is very committed to Tim's case and is one of the few people Tim still trusts.)

Julie, 16, was offered a modelling contract. She would like to get into this line of work but her parents object.

(Some background info:

- Julie is the only child of a quite rich couple and does very well in school
- Both parents are professionally very successful people.)