

## TEACHER'S NOTE: ROLEPLAY EXERCISES

### Criminal

#### (i) Assault / Public Order

Roles:

- Garda
- Person with bottle
- Person shouting

Facts:

Garda called to scene. Finds two people shouting at each other – one has a bottle in his/her hand, the other is shouting that he/she has been assaulted.

Activity:

- The garda asks questions about what happened
- The garda asks the person shouting to give his/her version of events
- The garda asks the person with the bottle to give his/her version
- Garda takes notes of answers

If satisfied that the person with bottle assaulted the other person, the garda can decide to charge the offender with assault.

#### (ii) Breaking and entering

Roles:

- Garda
- 2 other people

Facts:

Garda on patrol notices 2 people getting out the rear window of a factory premises with 2 large bags. He/she challenges the 2 and asks to check the bags which are found to contain large sums of money.

Activity:

- The garda asks the 2 people to explain what they were doing. Why were they getting out of the window? Where did they get the money? Where are they going with it?
- The 2 people offer some excuses
- Garda takes notes of answers

If the garda is not satisfied with excuses he/she might decide to charge the 2 people with a range of offences including breaking and entering; larceny (stealing money) and causing criminal damage.

## Civil

### (iii) Food poisoning claim

Roles:

- Solicitor
- Client

Facts:

Client claims that he/she suffered food poisoning having eaten a meal in a local restaurant

Activity:

- The solicitor asks the client for details of events – where was the restaurant? What condition was it in? Were there many people dining? Describe the meal? How was it presented? Does the client have any allergies? Was he/she dining alone?
- The client gives as much detail as possible
- The solicitor asks for details of what happened afterwards – how was the client affected? Did he/she eat anything after leaving the restaurant? Did he/she tell anyone about the illness? Did he/she go to a hospital?
- The solicitor takes note of the answers

If the solicitor is satisfied that it is more likely than not that the illness was caused by the meal, he/she must decide what case the client can bring before the court (for example, a claim for compensation for injury caused by negligence of the owner of the restaurant). The solicitor should also advise in what court (District, Circuit, High) the case should be brought.

### (iv) Claim for injury caused by slates falling off a roof

Roles:

- Solicitor
- Client

Facts:

The client calls to the solicitor claiming that slates falling off a roof caused him/her injury as he/she was walking along a footpath

Activity:

- The solicitor asks the client to describe events – where was he/she walking? Where was the building? Was there any evidence of building work? What happened? Were there any witnesses? What injuries did the client suffer? Did he/she go to a doctor/hospital?
- The client gives as much detail as possible
- The solicitor makes notes

The solicitor must decide if the accident could have been prevented by the owner of the property. Was it the owner's fault that the slates fell off? Could the injuries have been avoided if the owner had taken more care? Did the client contribute in any way to the injuries suffered?

If the solicitor is satisfied that it is more likely than not that the injuries were caused by negligence of the owner of the property, he/she might advise that the client bring an action claiming compensation for the injuries suffered. The solicitor should also advise in what court (District, Circuit, High) case should be brought.