

Just Deserts - Crown Prosecution Service

The DVD seeks to explain the role of the Crown Prosecution Service and follows the story of Jerome who, having witnessed a robbery, is torn between giving evidence and keeping his head down.

Before watching the DVD, with the person next to you discuss and consider the case of Hudson and Taylor [1971] 2 QB 202 ...

D aged 17 and E aged 19 were two girl witnesses at the trial of a man called Jimmy Wright. He had been charged with malicious wounding. Both D and E had been in the pub when the wounding was alleged to have occurred and gave statements to the police. At the trial, however, the girls failed to identify Wright and as a result he was acquitted. In due course the girls were charged with perjury (lying in court). D claimed that another man, F, who had a reputation for violence, had threatened her that if she told on Wright in Court she would be "cut up". She passed the threat to E and as a result they were too frightened to testify (especially when they arrived in Court to see F in the public gallery).

At their perjury trial both girls pleaded 'duress of threats' as a defence. Should they have been found guilty, or innocent? Explain your reasons.

Crown Prosecution Service

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Watch the programme carefully and answer the following questions:

- 1) Why does the Duty Prosecutor say that the CPS can't go ahead with a prosecution?

- 2) What is the two-part test that the CPS will use in deciding whether or not to prosecute?

- 3) How do the CPS and the Police encourage Jerome to give evidence?

- 4) Which court will the case be tried in and why?

- 5) What charges do the CPS decide to bring against Rick and Gary?

- 6) Why does Gary's solicitor advise him to plead guilty?

- 7) What sentences do Rick and Gary receive?