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DEFINITIONS

Civil penalty	A fine or fee that you have to pay to the government for committing violations of the law.
Commission of a crime	Doing things that are against the law. For example, stealing is against the law. Grabbing a candy bar from a gas station and leaving without paying for it is the commission of a crime.
Convicted/Conviction	When the judge or jury decide that somebody has actually committed a crime, that person is convicted of that crime and will be sentenced as punishment for that crime.
Cop (not police)	Normally, the word cop is used to define a police officer. We sometimes use the word cop in "When The Cops Come Knockin'" to mean "to go and buy something." For example, if you cop some new sneakers, that means you purchased some new sneakers.
Court	The place where hearings, trials and other criminal proceedings are held. The term court is also used to refer to the judge, especially when we say, "the court says."
Defense	The story or angle a person on trial for a crime uses to keep from being charged with some or all of the charges against him.
Drug paraphernalia	Anything related to drug use and drug dealing. This includes drugs, needles, bags for packaging, pots used to cook drugs, scales, pipes and bongs, papers for rolling, pill bottles, and everything else connected to the drug world.
Drug trafficking	Selling or transporting illegal drugs in large amounts, or over long distances.
Element of a crime	Any part of what it takes to commit a crime. For example, the elements of 1 st degree murder are 1) intentionally, 2) doing an action, 3) that causes, 4) the unjustifiable death of 5) another person.
Fence	A person who sells stolen goods for a thief. The word fence is also defined as the act of taking stolen goods and selling them.