



## Skit #6: Access to Justice

### Roles:

Tamara (woman with a problem)  
Robert (Tamara's male friend)  
Angela (Tamara's female neighbor)  
Court Clerk  
Man (Files a case in court)

### Summary:

Tamara wants to take a man to court for refusing to stop farming her land, but the local court is almost always closed. The nearest court is in the capital city, but Tamara can't afford to travel that far. When the local court opens for a day, Tamara thinks she'll be able to file her case. But women are not treated the same as men, and as a woman, Tamara did not get enough schooling to be able to read the forms. Without access to justice, Tamara has no way to enforce her rights.

### Skit:

**TAMARA:** I don't know what to do! I've told him a hundred times he can't farm that land. It's my land, but he won't leave.

**ROBERT:** I can think of a few ways you could get him to leave.

**TAMARA:** I'm sure you could. But I don't need to go to prison. [sighs] Maybe the court will open soon.

**ROBERT:** Ha! It's been closed for six months. If you want to take him to court, you'll have to travel to the capital city.

**TAMARA:** I can't afford to travel five hundred miles to the city. They've got to get a judge out here soon. They can't just leave the court closed forever.

**ROBERT:** That would take money. Besides, you would never win. You're a woman.

**TAMARA:** Yeah, you're probably right.

**ANGELA:** Hi, guys! Guess what? I was just in town and the court is open. Can you believe it?

**TAMARA:** Really? Maybe if I go there right now I can file a case.

**ROBERT:** [sarcastically] Good luck.

**ANGELA:** I'll go with you. Let's go.

[Tamara and Angela go to the courthouse]  
[at the clerk window]

**TAMARA:** Excuse me. Excuse me!  
[clerk ignores her]

**TAMARA:** Excuse me! I want to file a case.

**CLERK:** Fill out this form.

**TAMARA:** Can you help me fill this out? I don't understand it.

**CLERK:** Nope. You've got to do it on your own.

**MAN:** Excuse me. I'd like to file a case.

**CLERK:** You need to get out of the way, ma'am. Fill out this form, sir.

**MAN:** Okay. [takes form and fills it out]

**TAMARA** [to Angela]: I can't read this.

**ANGELA:** I had two years of school. Let me try. [looks at form] I can read some of it, but I don't really understand what it's about. I don't know anything about how the courts work.

**TAMARA** [to clerk]: Isn't there any other way I can see the judge?

**CLERK:** Nope. Sorry.

**TAMARA** [to Angela]: Let's just go. I'll have to find some other way to get that man off my land.