

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Word and Phrase Meanings**



## **A Day in Court**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write a definition for each word. If the word has a connotation, explain it.

There was no denying it—the woman had been negligent in her duties as a parent. Judge Henry looked down at the woman on the stand, who had just testified that she had left her two-year-old son alone in an apartment overnight while she went out of town. It was downright child abuse was what it was, Henry thought to himself, as the woman’s lawyer made a feeble attempt to defend her by saying that her need to have to go out of town to work was the result of a corrupt government system in which welfare payments wouldn’t support her.

The woman was eventually released from the stand, and both the defense and the prosecution rested their cases. It was time for closing arguments. As was customary, the prosecution went first. Henry watched the prosecution attorney as he addressed the jury, and tried to figure out whether the jury was likely to find the woman guilty or not guilty of negligent behavior. It seemed a cut and dry case to him, but if there was one thing he had learned in twenty years on the bench it was that there really was no such thing as a cut and dry case. The things that juries could decide to believe, or not believe, never ceased to bewilder him.

1. *Negligent* means: \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Downright* means: \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Corrupt* means: \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Customary* means: \_\_\_\_\_
5. *Bewilder* means: \_\_\_\_\_