

ANTI-SHOPLIFTING PACKET

Return this packet to your Probation Officer after completing the exercises. Happy studying...

Twin Falls County
Juvenile Probation
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Suite 3100
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-736-4215

Juvenile's Name _____
Probation/Div Officer _____
Due Date _____

Goal: To understand the impact theft has on others and to make a plan to prevent stealing.

SHOPLIFTING STATISTICS:

The following statistics were gathered by the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention:

- More than \$13 billion worth of goods are stolen from retailers each year. That's more than \$35 million per day.
- There are approximately 27 million shoplifters (or 1 in 11 people) in our nation today.
- Shoplifting affects more than the offender. It overburdens the police and the courts, adds to a store's security expenses, costs consumers more for goods, costs communities' lost dollars in sales taxes, and hurts children and families.
- Shoplifters steal from all types of stores including department stores, specialty shops, supermarkets, drug stores, discounters, music store, convenience stores and thrift shops.
- There is no profile of a typical shoplifter. Men and women shoplift about equally as often.
- Approximately 25% of shoplifters are kids, 75% are adults. 55% of adult shoplifters say they started shoplifting in their teens.
- Many shoplifters buy and steal merchandise in the same visit. Shoplifters commonly steal from \$2 to \$200 per incident.
- Shoplifting is often not planned ahead of time. 73% of adult and 72% of Juvenile shoplifters don't plan to steal in advance.
- 89% of kids say they know other kids who shoplift. 66% say they hang out with those kids.
- Shoplifters say they are caught an average of only once in every 48 times they steal. They are turned over to the police 50% of the time.
- Approximately 3% of shoplifters are "professionals" who steal solely for resale or profit as a business. These include drug addicts who steal to feed their habit and hardened professionals who steal as a life-style. Professional shoplifters are responsible for 10% of the total dollar losses.
- The majority of shoplifters are "non-professionals" who steal, not out of criminal intent, financial need or greed but as a response to social and personal pressures in their life.

- The excitement generated from "getting away with it" produces a chemical reaction resulting in what shoplifters describe as an incredible "rush" or "high" feeling. Many shoplifters will tell you this high is their "true reward," rather than the merchandise itself.
- Drug addicts, who have become addicted to shoplifting, describe shoplifting as equally addicting as drugs.
- 57% of adults and 33% of juveniles say it is hard for them to stop shoplifting even after getting caught.
- Most non-professional shoplifters don't commit other types of crimes. They will never steal from your house and will return to you a \$20 bill you may have dropped. Their criminal activity is restricted to shoplifting.
- Some shoplifters see shoplifting as a form of self nourishment or as a way to relieve fear of pain in their life. Several studies have found depression to exist in approximately 1/3 of the shoplifters studied.
- Habitual shoplifters steal an average of 1.6 times per week.
- There are a number of reasons that cause a juvenile to shoplift. Some of these reasons include:
 - Lack of money - wants nice things
 - Family/other problems
 - Peer pressure
 - Attention
 - Thrill seeking - wanted to see if they could get away with it
 - Learned behavior
 - On drugs/alcohol
 - Impulsive
 - Emotional issues, i.e., angry, depressed, confused, or bored



1. True or False: Men shoplift more than women?
2. What % of shoplifters are teens?
3. 55% of adult shoplifters say they started shoplifting in their teens. Why do you think that is?
4. What are some reasons teenagers shoplift?
5. Many teenagers shoplift as a result of peer pressure. What are some other ways you could handle a situation if a friend is pressuring you to shoplift?
6. Some shoplifters will tell you they feel a "rush" or "high" from stealing and getting away with it. What are some healthy ways to get excitement or adrenaline generated?
7. Why do you think some shoplifters keep stealing, even after getting caught?
8. Name two things you learned after reading about shoplifting statistics:

IDAHO LAWS



What is a crime: A crime is an act that is forbidden by law or the failure to do an act that the law requires? It is also behavior for which the government has established a punishment.

Crimes fall into categories. For teenagers, three main categories are: Status, misdemeanor, and felony offenses.

Status offenses: Offenses that are not considered crimes once you turn 18 years of age. Examples of status offenses are Runaway, Beyond Control, Truancy, and Curfew. These offenses carry up to 3 years' probation and 30 days suspended detention.

Misdemeanor offenses: Criminal offenses that are punishable up to three years' probation and 90 days detention.

Felony offenses: Criminal offenses that are punishable up to three years' probation and 180 days detention.

Following are offenses you can be charged with for stealing:

Definitions:

Petit Theft - Misdemeanor: Stealing property that has a value less than \$1000. Punishable up to 90 days in detention.

Grand Theft- Felony: Stealing property that is valued \$1000 or more. Punishable up to 180 days in detention.

Burglary - Felony: Entering a building or vehicle with the intent to commit a theft. Punishable up to 180 days in detention.

Willful Concealment -Misdemeanor: Concealing merchandise under your clothing or in your pocket, purse, backpack, etc. You can be stopped for Willful Concealment without even leaving the store.

Aiding/Abetting: To assist in the commission of a crime or be an accomplice. An individual can aid/abet any of the above offenses and the punishment is the same as if the individual stole the item.

Idaho Code 48-701: Liability for stealing or concealing merchandise:

Any person who steals or conceals merchandise shall be civilly liable to the merchant for the retail value of the merchandise, plus damages of not less than \$100 or more than

\$250, costs of suit, and reasonable attorney fees. The liability of parents or legal guardian and of the minor is joint and several.

READ EACH SCENARIO AND DECIDE WHAT EACH OFFENDER COULD BE CHARGED WITH:

1. Jane walks into Wal-Mart and while walking through the candy aisle, she slips two packs of gum into her pocket. She continues to walk around the store then is stopped by a store clerk.
What could Jane be charged with and what is the maximum penalty she could receive?
2. Larry has heard from friends that it is easy to steal from stores at the Mall. Larry enters the Mall and goes into a clothing store. Larry brings 4 shirts into the dressing room (total value of \$125) and puts 3 of them on underneath his sweatshirt. What could Larry be charged with and what is the maximum penalty he could receive?
3. Michael is at Cabella's with friends. One of his friends wants to steal some hunting equipment. Michael does not think it would be a good idea to steal. Michael's friend gives him a hard time about not wanting to try it. Eventually, Michael states he will not take anything, but he will stand nearby to watch to make sure his friend does not get caught. Michael's friend got caught stealing. What could Michael be charged with and what is the maximum penalty he could receive?
4. Kate baby-sits for a family and is often in parts of the house alone after the children go to bed. She has noticed the mother keeps very nice jewelry on the top of her dresser. There are lots of pieces so Kate thinks she can get away with stealing one or two pieces without anyone noticing. The jewelry Kate takes values at \$ 1,130. What could Kate be charged with and what is the maximum penalty she could receive?

Explain What you did to violate the law:

DIVERSION

Your case has been referred to the Diversion Program. Some advantages of doing Diversion are the following:

1. You do not have to attend Court.

2. You do not have a record - your name and offense are not recorded in the Idaho Repository
3. Your file will be destroyed when you turn 18 on condition no new offenses are committed
4. You cannot receive detention time Gail for Juveniles
5. You are not placed on probation
6. Fees are usually lower than being placed on probation

What are two advantages of being placed in the Diversion Program?

1. _____

2. _____

WHO IS AFFECTED

Whenever a crime is committed, there are many persons that are affected. We call this the RIPPLE EFFECT. Following are some persons that are affected:

- Juvenile who commits the crime
- Juvenile's family
- Community
- Victim

Juvenile: First, crime impacts the juvenile. This includes court/diversion consequences, grounding, loss of trust, etc.

What feelings did you have upon being arrested? _____

What consequences did you receive for your actions?

Home? _____

Community (i.e., fine to store, trespassed from store, etc.) _____

Other? _____

JUVENILE'S FAMILY

Shoplifting hurts your family, i.e., parents, siblings, etc. Parents are inconvenienced by having to take time off work and away from other children or tasks. They lose trust in their son/daughter and are financially responsible for their child's poor choices. Siblings may lose respect for you and may be negatively misled, i.e., follow in the footsteps of the individual who shoplifted.

Who was affected in your family? _____

What feelings did your parents experience upon your being arrested? _____

How were your parents affected upon your being arrested? _____

How were siblings affected by your crime? _____

COMMUNITY

Shoplifting hurts entire communities.

- Consumers must pay higher costs to cover the losses from theft.
- Consumers might be fearful and lose trust of teenagers.
- The stolen items are no longer on the shelf for the consumer to purchase, so their selection has been impacted.
- High ticket items are placed behind counters under lock and key.
- Consumer must endure the inconvenience and invasiveness of security measures when shopping
- Areas with a high percentage of shoplifting can force stores to leave the area
- Employees lose jobs when stores are forced to close.
- The loss of local and state sales tax revenue results in higher taxes for everyone.
- There is added burden on the police and the courts. When a police report is filed, there are many persons involved during the processing of a case. The community pays higher taxes to pay for all of these persons. Following are some of the persons involved when a crime occurs:
- Police Officer responds to the scene of the crime
- Report is forwarded to the School Resource Officer (SRO) for investigation
- SRO forwards the case to his/her Supervisor
- SRO Supervisor forwards the case to Clerical

- Clerical forwards the case to the Juvenile Prosecuting Attorney
- Prosecuting Attorney forwards the case to Clerical to process for Diversion or filing
- File is forwarded to the Victim's Unit to screen for restitution and Victim Impact Statement
- File is sent to Probation Supervisor
- Probation Supervisor assigns the case to a Probation Officer who manages the case
- Program Staff provide services, i.e., community service, counseling, etc.

Who in the community was affected by your crime and how were they affected?

VICTIMS

Victims are affected by shoplifting. A victim is an individual or group that suffers a loss.

- In the case of shoplifting, the retail business is the victim.
- Property crime can affect stores financially through the loss of the items that were stolen. The amount of money lost depends on the profit margin, but for many businesses, this is up to 90% of face retail value. Most businesses do not recover the goods or their money even if the shoplifter is caught.
- Property crime can affect store employees emotionally. Store employees may experience fear, anger, and insecurity.
- Property crime can affect store employees physically. Store employees may experience stress reactions through headaches, problems sleeping, etc.
- Property crime can affect store employees spiritually. Store employees may begin to question the goodness of others, especially teenagers. They may begin to look at all teenagers as wanting to steal.
- Businesses will try to curb shoplifting by investing in technology such as security cameras and security tags for their most valuable products.
- Businesses also invest in staff training and put pressure on their staff to catch shoplifters.

What are three ways the victim (or store) was affected when you shoplifted?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION

As was mentioned earlier, there are a number of reasons that cause a juvenile to shoplift. Some of these reasons include:

- Lack of money - wants nice things
- Family/other problems
- Peer pressure
- Attention
- Thrill seeking - wanted to see if they could get away with it.
- Learned behavior
- On drugs/alcohol
- Impulsive
- Emotional issues, i.e., angry, depressed, confused, or bored

1. What are the reasons you shoplifted? _____
2. How did you feel when you got caught? _____
3. What else could you have done to prevent the shoplifting? _____

REFUSAL SKILLS

Some teenagers steal because of peer pressure. Following are steps you can take when you are experiencing peer pressure.

- Ask questions. Find out what is going on before you go somewhere and do something with a friend
 - What are we going to do?
 - Who is going to be there?
 - Do you have any money?
- Name the trouble. This forces you and your friends to recognize the trouble for what it really is. Trust your gut. If you are having uncomfortable feelings, don't do it.
 - That's stealing, burglary, etc.
- Think of consequences. "When I get caught I will ..."
 - put on probation
 - might go to detention
 - will have a record
 - will be sued civilly
 - will lose my parents trust

- Think of alternatives. Why don't we...
 - go to a movie
 - listen to music at my house
 - play video games
 - go get something to eat
- Try to talk your friends out of stealing or leave. Use reverse peer pressure. Try to convince your friends to do the right thing. If you cannot convince them, leave.

THINKING DRIVES BEHAVIOR, CHANGE THINKING CHANGE BEHAVIOR

- Identify Thoughts and Feelings. We're going to look at how people's thoughts and feelings control the way they act. This is an important idea because it points to a way, we can control our own ways of acting by controlling our thinking.
- Risky Thinking. We are thinking and feeling all of the time. Sometimes, we use thinking that leads us into trouble. This is called "risky thinking." Following are some examples of risky thinking. In the far-right column, write down names of persons I know that use this thinking:

Ten Types of Risky Thinking

Answer each question with people you know who use this kind of thinking

1. DON'T CARE: Act like nothing you do matter to you or alone else "Who cares what anyone else thinks
2. BLAMING: Nothing that happens is your fault or caused by anything you have done: "It's not my fault I got pulled over for speeding."
3. I AM NO GOOD: Low self-confidence. Thoughts focus on giving up, never succeeding. "I don't know why I even try; I will never be able to do this."
4. CONTROLLING: I can talk people into anything.
5. SECRETS: Dishonest, lies never tell the truth. "No one will ever know."
6. ALL ABOUT ME: Thoughts focus only on yourself, and how good you are. "My needs come first. I am the most important."

7. ANGRY: Thoughts focus on anger, hostility, and revenge, on being mean and rude to other. “They have no right to treat me like that; I am going to hurt them.”

8. WORRIER: Filled with fear and worry, anxiety about the future. “I will never make it thought tomorrow; it is going to be terrible.”

9. IT’S NOT SO BAD: Pretends everything is no big deal, even when things are in a crisis. “that was no big deal; it did not bother me a bit.”

10. FAKE NICE: Being superficial, pretending to be nice to get your way. “I am weak at talking my way out of things.”

What risky feelings did I have during my offense?

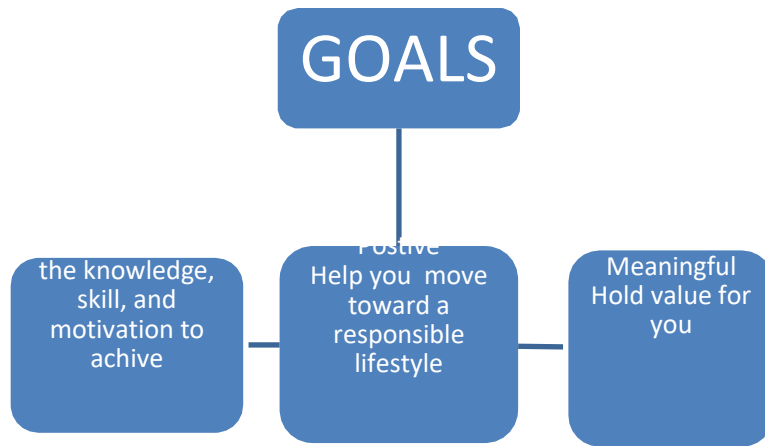
What risky thinking did I use during my theft offense?

What other areas of my life do I use this thinking, i.e., family, school, friends, etc?

New Thinking. Next, we need to identify and practice new thinking that will lead us towards doing the right thing. Remember, a lot of our thinking is habitual, developed over time, so we need to practice our new thinking several times before it sticks. Research shows we need to practice a new thought/behavior 15+ times for it to become habit. We don't always succeed the first time we try. But, if we keep trying and practicing our new thinking/behavior, we can change our behavior.

What are some new thoughts I can use that will prevent me from shoplifting?

- Setting goals is a powerful tool in making positive life changes. Goals help give you direction. Long and short terms goals let you know where you are and where you want to go.
- Set goals that are realistic, positive, and meaningful.



Think about your hopes and dreams. Remember, your thoughts and goals can create your reality.

List three things you want to do in the next six months:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things you want to do in the next five years:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ACTION PLAN

You are at the beginning of a lifelong journey of change. What are three things you plan on doing/thinking to make sure you don't shoplift again?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Who are the people that can support me on my journey?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

"Right actions in the future are the best apologies for bad actions in the past."

Tyron Edwards - Theologian

