

# ANTI-THEFT PACKET

## Ada County Juvenile Services

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Juvenile's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Diversion Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal:** To understand the impact theft has on others and to plan to prevent stealing. Please return this packet to your Diversion Officer when you have finished.

## SHOPLIFTING STATISTICS:

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

- 1 in 4 adults and youth have admitted to shoplifting before the ages of 12-16.
- The 27 million shoplifting offenders, and the cost of their offenses, are a drain on criminal justice and retail resources.
- The frequency of shoplifting results in nearly \$50 billion in retail crime annually.
- Approximately 1 in 11 Americans shoplift.
- 550,000 shoplifting incidents occur every day.
- Stores lose more than \$45 million a day to shoplifting; communities lose the corresponding tax revenue.
- 79% of criminal justice professionals surveyed, state that shoplifting is a gateway to more costly and violent crime.
- Each time an offender enters the criminal justice system, the cost to taxpayers is upwards of \$2,000.
- Approximately 25% of shoplifters are youth, 75% are adults. 55% of adult shoplifters say they started shoplifting in their teens.
- Shoplifting is often not planned beforehand. 73% of adult and 72% of Juvenile shoplifters don't plan to steal in advance.

## SHOPLIFTING STATISTICS QUIZ:

1. What percentage of adults are shoplifters? What percentage are youth?

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2. How many shoplifting incidents occur each day?

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3. How much money do stores lose a day due to shoplifting incidents?

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4. Who does shoplifting harm? Name three examples.

5. Name two things you learned from the shoplifting statistics:

## IDAHO LAWS

A *crime* is an act that is forbidden by law or the failure to do an act that the law requires. Crimes fall into categories. For teenagers, three main categories are:

**Status Offenses:** Offenses that are not considered crimes once you turn 18 years of age. Examples of status offenses: 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.

### SHOPLIFTING CHARGES

**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. (Can include crimes where a credit card was stolen and used because the card has the potential to spend more than \$1000).

**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 - Misdemeanor:** 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. Sam and Jacob walk into Wal-Mart and come up with a plan. Jacob does the stealing, while Sam walks around and plays the role of the look-out. Both Sam and Jacob are stopped by a store clerk on the way out. What could Sam be charged with, even though he was not the one to steal?

4. What was your offense and what could you be charged for?

## DIVERSION

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

- Diversion is completely handled outside of the court system, which means there were no formal charges for the crime you committed.
- You do not have a formal record - your name and offense are not recorded in iCourt.
- Your file will be destroyed when you turn 18 if no new offenses are committed AND the diversion program is successfully completed.
- You cannot be placed in detention for the offenses you're in diversion for.
- You cannot be placed on probation for the same offenses you're in diversion for unless you are unsuccessful with the Diversion program or decline Diversion program.
- Fees are usually lower than being placed on probation.

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WHO IS AFFECTED?

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

Below are some persons that are affected by crime:

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

The next few sections will discuss these people who were each affected by the crime.

## Victim(s)

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(s) was affected by your crime?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Community

Communities are harmed by shoplifting incidents.

- Consumers must pay higher costs to cover the losses from theft.
- The stolen items are no longer on the shelf for the consumer to purchase, so their selection has been impacted.
- 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.



## Juvenile

The first crime can affect the juvenile in many ways. Some stressors can be the charges themselves, the law enforcement officers, the criminal justice system, the consequences, and effects on the future.

1. What happened the day of the crime? What lead up to making the decision to commit this crime?
2. Were you peer-pressured to commit this crime? If so, how did this make you feel?
3. What consequences did you receive for the offense? At home? At school? In the community?
4. How did these consequences make you feel?

**Long Term Goals:**

**Long Term Goal with Criminal Charges Against You**

**Long Term Goal with No Criminal Charges Against you**

**What Would This Goal Look Like?**

**What Would This Goal Look Like?**

After reflecting on goals, what did you learn from this? (Write 2-3 sentences):



## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Please write two to three sentences per section.

1. How did committing this offense affect you and what were your feelings about committing the offense before, during, and after?
2. How did committing this offense affect how your family and friends feel about you?
3. How do you think the victim felt after you committed the offense? (Victims can be store workers, corporations, consumers, etc.).
4. What are three things you learned from completing this Anti-theft packet?

5. What was the most important thing you learned from the diversion program?

## PEER PRESSURE/ REFUSAL SKILLS

Often, people are affected by peer pressure when they steal. The following are steps you can take when 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 is stealing, burglary, shoplifting, etc.!
- Think of consequences. "When I get caught"
  - I might be put on probation
  - I might go to detention
  - I will have a record
  - I might be sued civilly
  - I might 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 just leave. Use reverse peer pressure. Try to convince your friends to do the right thing, if you can't convince them, leave.

## 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 who can support you during this change?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_