

# RETAIL CRIME

## IS SHOPLIFTING A CRIME?



Stealing is taking something that doesn't belong to you. Shoplifting is taking something from a shop without paying for it. Shoplifting is stealing.

**People who are found guilty of shoplifting are charged with theft under the Theft Act 1986.**

### WHY MIGHT SOMEONE STEAL?

There are many reasons why someone might decide to shoplift. If you have ever stolen anything put an X in any of the boxes that apply to you. If there was another reason not listed here fill in the blank box:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No money to buy it | <input type="checkbox"/> To sell the stuff to make money   | <input type="checkbox"/> Because friends were doing it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For a thrill       | <input type="checkbox"/> To give the stuff to someone else | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't want to pay for it      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For a dare         | <input type="checkbox"/> Because it's easy                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Because you think it's ok     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____              |  |  |

### WHO DOES SHOPLIFTING AFFECT AND HOW?

#### THE FACTS

Sometimes people believe that shoplifting is a victimless crime because in most cases nobody else is involved. This is not the case.

- 1** UK shops lost more than £3 billion to shoplifting in 2013. To offset this cost the shops need to raise prices in their shop which directly affects customers.
- 2** Shoplifting costs every UK taxpayer more than £115 per year.
- 3** Police are called to deal with shoplifters - You could end up in handcuffs and taken to a police station where you could be held in a cell while they make enquiries.
- 4** Shoplifting is a crime - Your parents or carers WILL be told.

Write how your behaviour might have affected the following people:

	Psychological effect	Physical effect	Financial effect	Social effect
Shop keeper				
Shop keeper's family				
Shop workers				
General public				

How are you affected? Are your friends and family affected by your behaviour too?

	Psychological effect	Physical effect	Financial effect	Social effect
You				
Your family				
Your friends				

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## IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?

Depending on your reasons for stealing there may be another way to get the help you need. Explore the reasons given for stealing and look at possible interventions that may help avoid stealing in future. Is there an underlying reason that needs to be addressed?

What was stolen?

What would help it not to happen again?

What did you do with the stuff you stole

Was it worth it?

Yes  No

Why?

For a first-time offender, a fixed penalty of about £80 is common.

## IS IT WORTH IT?

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF SHOPLIFTING?

If you are found guilty, the penalty will depend on the severity of the offence and whether you have been caught before.

### 1 CRIMINAL RECORD

Getting arrested and a criminal record could affect your whole life; future job prospects, going to college or university and travelling abroad.

### 2 TRESSPASS NOTICE

You may be asked by the shop concerned not to enter its walls for a period of time. You may also be banned from areas where there are shops, such as the Metrocentre, Eldon Square or your local high street.

### 3 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

You may have to apologise to the victim or victims of your crime. You may also have to return the goods to the store you stole them from.

### 4 SENTENCES FOR UNDER 17's

If you are under 17 years of age the Youth Court Judge may sentence you to supervision, community work, a stint in a child, youth and family services residence, and also order you to pay a fine.

### 5 SENTENCES FOR 17+

If you are an adult (17 years or older), your sentence will depend on a variety of circumstances including whether or not it is your first time offence, if you were part of a group offence what role you played, if the theft was planned or not, if threat or force was used and whether or not you were banned from the store.

**The maximum sentence for theft is 7 years.**  
**You will have to pay court costs.**

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HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT BETTER



## HEALING THE EFFECTS OF CRIME

Thinking about all the people who have been affected by your behaviour what could you do to try and repair the damage?

What can you DO now?

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What can you SAY now?

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What can you DO in the FUTURE?

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## NOW LETS HEAR FROM YOU



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find this session?  Good  Alright  Bad

Did you learn...  Something useful  A little  Nothing

