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## What Is Shoplifting?

### Definition:

Any goods consumed, concealed or otherwise removed from a store without prior payment  
Theft under \$5000 is considered shoplifting

### What kinds of activity can be considered shoplifting?

Eating candy or nuts from bulk food bins  
Opening a pop or juice and drinking from it before paying for it  
Walking out with a cashier's pen  
Forgetting to pay for an item  
Hiding an item among other things or in the bottom of a cart and leaving the store with it  
Switching price tags  
Leaving the store with a \$.75 chocolate bar  
Taking a \$3000 leather jacket

### Do you actually have to be stealing to be charged?

**No!** Even if you are not the one who is stealing, if you are with someone who is shoplifting, you can also be charged. This is called **Guilt by Association**.

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## What are the costs of shoplifting?

Shoplifting makes businesses less competitive and costs consumers more: retailers will be sure to recoup their losses and they will do this by increasing their prices.

Theft and the measures taken to prevent theft make up approximately 2.5 % of the cost of store products  
There was about 3 billion dollars worth of products stolen either by shoplifters or store employees (stores estimate that they lose between 1% and 4.5% of their merchandise to shoplifting.)

### Are there hidden costs of shoplifting?

**YES!** Some of these hidden costs include:

- Higher costs and burdens on the justice system (i.e., the police and the courts)
- Inconvenient security measures in stores (i.e. hidden cameras and plain clothes security - remember that these costs will be reflected in the prices of the retailers merchandise)
- Increase in public concern about crime and public safety and especially concern about youth crime
- An increase in family problems which result from arrest

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## Facts About Shoplifting

There are two kinds of shoplifters:  
**Professional Shoplifters** - these are often drug addicts who steal in order to sustain their habit or they could be criminals who steal for resale for a living  
**Non-professional Shoplifters** - these people make up the majority of shoplifters. They steal for a variety of reasons and is often due to their inability to cope with their lives. They could be depressed, frustrated, anxious, influenced by peers, thrill seekers or kleptomaniacs. Both men and women shoplift equally often and about 25% of shoplifters are kids.

**Shoplifting** is usually not a crime that is premeditated - approximately 70% of shoplifters said they don't plan to steal  
On average, shoplifters are only caught once in every 49 times. 50% of the times they are caught, they were turned over to the police.  
57% of adults and 33 % of youth say that even after being caught, they find it difficult to discontinue their shoplifting habits - shoplifting can be very addictive because of the high people feel once they've "gotten away with it."

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## Do you have a shoplifting problem?

The *Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia* offers a **Women's Stop-Lifting Program** to help you or someone you know deal with a shoplifting problem.

The program is designed for women who:  
are convicted of theft under \$5000  
are convicted of theft over \$5000  
are convicted of fraud  
believe they have a problem with shoplifting, fraud or theft and are seeking help

### **About the Stop-Lifting Program:**

It consists of four 10 hour modules presented in 2 1/2 hour sessions  
It will help women identify factors that contribute to criminal activity  
It will help women develop a personal plan for recovery  
It will deal with issues of Self Awareness, Anger Management, Personal Boundaries, Healthy Relationships, Communication and Addictions

**For workshop dates and/or information and registration contact the Program Coordinator @**

**454-5041 (Ext.24)**

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## Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia

### *Our Mission Statement:*

Our Society continues to work with, and on behalf of, women in conflict with the law, and those at risk by:

- Responding to the needs of women in prison
- Developing programs and services in the community for women who have been charged with offences and women at risk of coming into conflict with the law;
- Encouraging public awareness and understanding of issues related to women in conflict with the law
- Lobbying for the improvement of conditions for women in local penal institutions;
- Lobbying for changes in the criminal justice system

*For more information , please contact:*

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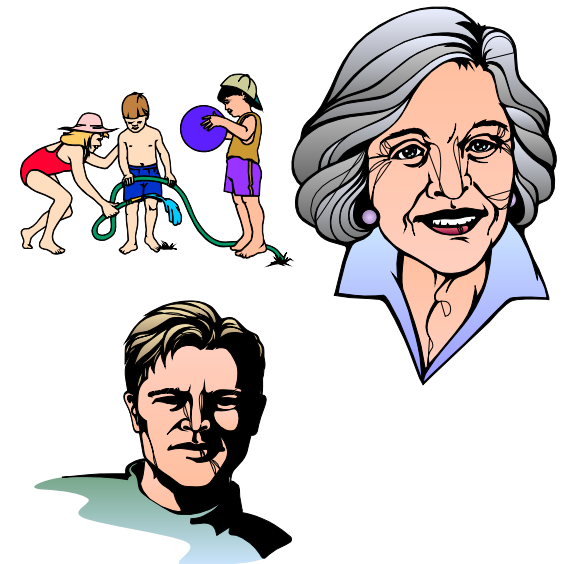
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## THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY MAINLAND NS

## THE STOPLIFTING PROGRAM

(For Women)



**Addressing Behaviors of Shoplifting Theft and Fraud**