

## ANONYMOUS THIEF: SHOPLIFTING

One of the greatest costs to retailers and consumers is shoplifting. It is a leading contributor to higher prices and inflation. This crime affects almost every type of retail operation from the largest department store to the smallest one man operation. Consider that for every dollar stolen in bank robberies annually, shoplifters steal three hundred times that amount during the same period.

There are many kinds of shoplifters and reasons why people shoplift. Often, these criminals don't consider what they are doing to be wrong.

The Community Resource Development staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service is concerned by research results of the National Coalition to Prevent Shoplifting. The study noted that juveniles are more actively engaged in shoplifting than any other age group.

**THE ANONYMOUS THIEF** describes the various types of shoplifters and the methods they use. This program outlines a plan for store owners and managers by giving employee awareness tips, help in setting up departments properly, and particulars on gathering and giving descriptions of shoplifters.



The best deterrents to shoplifting are modern security devices and prevention procedures. **THE ANONYMOUS THIEF** discusses the most current methods of prevention and professional security equipment.

**THE ANONYMOUS THIEF** is an awareness program designed to help management and employees work more closely together for a stronger defense against shoplifting.

LD  
5655  
A762  
No. 306-022  
VPI  
Spec

**Suggested Uses:**

To provide select audiences with an accurate, current knowledge of shoplifting. To suggest deterrents to shoplifting. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

**Recommended For:**

Community and corporate crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. Crime prevention programs, colleges and universities, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chambers of Commerce and merchant associations.

**Producers:**

Syndistar, Inc.  
648 Hickory Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
Phone: 1-800-841-9532

## CONCLUSION

Shoplifting is a crime of tremendous proportions affecting merchants, department stores, specialty and food retailers. According to a recent FBI Uniform Crime Report, an estimated 48% of all customers who enter a store will steal at times. The Community Resource Development (CRD) Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, as a part of its crime prevention programming effort, purchased from Syndistar, Inc., and is making available **THE ANONYMOUS THIEF**.

Detailed questions concerning any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD programs.



Community Resource  
Development

James Douglas McAlister  
Program Leader  
Community Resource Development

---

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1977, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mitchell R. Geasler, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and Vice Provost for Extension, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061; Clinton V. Turner, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.