



CITY OF LONE TREE
TEEN COURT

Victim Offender Shoplifting Interview (VOSI)

Shoplifting is continually one of the most prominent cases in Teen Court programs throughout the United States. This is both a community problem and a business problem with ripple effects that go far beyond a single incident. According to statistics from the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (2015):

- Approximately 25% of shoplifters are juveniles;
- 90% of teens say they know other kids who shoplift and 66% of those say they hang out with kids who shoplift;
- 55% of adult shoplifters say they started shoplifting in their teens.

In order to address this issue in the community and lower the likelihood of future incidents. Juveniles charged with shoplifting may now be assigned a Victim Offender Shoplifting Interview (VOSI). The VOSI will allow the respondent to interview a Loss Prevention Specialist or Lone Tree Police Officer who can speak to the impact of shoplifting on the store, community, and respondent. A Teen Court program representative will be present for each interview. Each VOSI will be assigned on a case by case basis, and is not a mandatory sanction for all shoplifters.

VOSI Goals

Education & Prevention: Educating teens about shoplifting and the detrimental consequences is the most effective tool we have to reduce juvenile theft and prevent future incidents. Giving juvenile offenders the opportunity to learn about shoplifting from the store and community perspective makes teens far less likely to reoffend.

Accountability: The VOSI gives the respondent the rare opportunity to conduct a one-on-one interview with a Loss Prevention Specialist or a Police Officer. This provides accountability to the respondent by allowing each individual to accept responsibility for his or her actions, admit it was wrong, and take action by learning how exactly the store and community were harmed.

Community Engagement: The VOSI allows the respondent to directly engage with an important part of the community that was affected by what happened. The respondent can positively engage with the community by learning how their actions affected the store and that theft is not a victimless crime.



Victim Offender Shoplifting Interview (VOSI)

Name: _____

As part of the Victim Offender Shoplifting Interview, you are required to conduct a scripted interview with a Loss Prevention Specialist or Police Officer. Interviews will take place at the Lone Tree Administrative Office. You are required to ask 6 scripted questions and come up with 2 related questions of your own. The two additional questions need to be approved by the Teen Court Coordinator or a Teen Court Adult Volunteer prior to the interview.

Detailed notes must be taken for each question and turned in to the Teen Court Coordinator along with a two - page essay titled "How Shoplifting is a Community Problem and a Business Problem". Also provide one paragraph discussing lessons learned for you personally. Please bring a pad of paper and a pen to write on for the interview.

Arrive for your interview 10 minutes early. Dress professionally and be respectful throughout your interview. Further consequences will be imposed to respondents who are not respectful and professional in the interview.

Introductions:

- **Introduce yourself.** Explain why you are doing the interview and what you hope to gain from speaking with the Loss Prevention Specialist or Police Officer. Take accountability for why you are doing the interview, recognize your impacts on others, and tell them what you're doing to make things right.

(For example: Hello, my name is Alex Smith and I am doing this Shoplifting Interview as part of my Teen Court participation. I am in Teen Court because....This situation impacted others because...I would like to learn more about....I plan to do things differently in the future by....)

Write your introduction: _____

- What is your name and job title?

Interview Questions:

1. Can you please tell me a little about your job and responsibilities?

2. Can you explain how loss prevention works and how the police department responds to theft?

3. What can a youth do to adequately own up for theft?

4. In your opinion, is shoplifting a problem for stores in Lone Tree? Why?

5. Based on your experience, what is the most harmful consequence of shoplifting on the store?

6. What are the impacts of shoplifting to the community?

VOSI Additional Questions
(Write down your question and the answer given):

1.

2.

**** Remember, thank the person you are interviewing for their time and for the information they shared. ****

Signature of Loss Prevention/LTPD professional

Date

Signature of Respondent

Date