



Stop Shoplifting Education Program

Presented by the Better Business Bureau Foundation serving Upstate New York, Inc.

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The Stop Shoplifting Education Program, an initiative of the Better Business Bureau Foundation of Upstate New York, Inc., is an alternative program that educates, rather than punishes, petit larceny offenders on the personal and public ramifications of shoplifting.

How the Program Works

Courts throughout Upstate New York have the option of referring petit larceny offenders to the Stop Shoplifting Education Program. When referred, the court completes the Stop Shoplifting Education Program referral form and faxes, emails or mails it to the BBB office. The BBB then works to ensure compliance of the offender and reports the outcome back to the courts.

Program Details

The Stop Shoplifting Education Program is a one-day, three-hour participatory class that explores the social, legal and economic consequences of shoplifting. The program offers an opportunity for self-evaluation and does not criticize offenders for their actions, but rather explores the reason surrounding related offenses ultimately reducing the rate of recidivism.

Currently, the classes are held in Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua and Genesee counties. The participation fee is \$75.00 and is the sole funding for the program. A hardship fee reduction will be granted if requested by the court and approved by the BBB.

Once Completed, Participants Will Be Able To:

- Appreciate how the justice system views shoplifting and the first offender status.
- Know the consequences of a second offense.
- Recognize the legal, social, and financial impact shoplifting has on the retail industry, the community and personally.
- List the psychosocial problems that shoplifting causes for themselves and their family.
- Understand why they are involved in shoplifting.
- Write an accountability statement that includes a prevention plan to avoid future shoplifting behavior.

To learn more about the BBB's Stop Shoplifting Education Program, please contact Kelly Fries at 716-558-7925 or kfries@upstatenybbb.org.