



“THEFT TALK” Online Services Online Theft Class Course Approval Information

To Whom It May Concern:

This document is designed to show an attorney, judge, probation officer or other referral source how the THEFT TALK Online class learning model works and what is required to receive a certificate of completion of our program.

For the past 27 years THEFT TALK Online Services has been a nationwide leader in providing theft counseling programs. THEFT TALK’s online theft class was developed to be the highest quality online theft class available. We use a research and evidence based cognitive restructuring and psycho-educational model. The primary goal of THEFT TALK Online Services is to reduce the probability of a client re-entering the Justice System as a result of further thefts. It is a distance learning program that teaches about specific thinking errors and other skills related to four key objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Empowerment: To assist the client in developing a sense of personal responsibility for each decision they make.

Prior to completing our online course each client will acknowledge they are the only one who can stop themselves from stealing.

OBJECTIVE 2: Education: To inform each client of the impact stealing has on others.

The purpose is to have each client perceive theft quite differently from how it is typically perceived. In this regard, the second objective is to provide each client with specific information and skills to include in their decision making process.

Prior to completing the course each client will associate stealing with the actual impact it always has on others.

OBJECTIVE 3: Victim Awareness: To have each client consider the value he/she places on “others”.

This third objective entails having the offender look into him/her self, introspectively and weigh the value placed on SELF vs. the value placed on OTHERS. We are not trying to build the offenders self image. We recognize the importance of this however, our focus is on developing an OTHERS image.

OBJECTIVE 4: Empathy Development: To have each client consider the value he/she places on "others".

Prior to, and long after completing the course each client will question themselves – asking, seriously, how important they believe others really are.

This is an 8 hour curriculum (7 for juveniles) and contains several hundred pages of information. This class is delivered in the form of an online classroom, where videos, content, quizzes, multi-media presentations, and email exchanges are provided. This course is considered interactive and comprehensive. THEFT TALK is an evidence based program.

THEFT TALK™ was founded in 1983 and through the combined 43 years of experience of a parole officer, a juvenile probation officer, a college instructor and a justice system policy analyst. Each of these roles contributed greatly to the style, delivery and content of the work we do.

As you surely know, getting results with offenders is no easy task. We don't make ridiculous claims like a 95% success rate but we do know that we use best practices. THEFT TALK™ addresses victim issues, accountability and personal responsibility. Our approach is the most effective intervention - cognitive restructuring - and is based on the ground breaking work outlined in "The Psychology of Stealing" by Steven M. Houseworth, MA.

We know that of the thousands of clients who have gone through - and successfully completed - this program, 86% do not re-offend within one year. Of equal or greater importance is that 84% do not re-offend after two years. This low attrition rate suggests to us that "if" the client "gets it", he really does "get it". We are proud of our work and expect you will be pleased with our offender solution.

"THEFT TALK" Counseling Service uses an evidence based cognitive restructuring approach in all of the services it offers. Though our class material is heavily laced with content which addresses thinking errors, the classes are not marketed as "thinking error" classes. If the person referring is wanting the client to be exposed to a class which introduces thinking errors and focuses on the different types of thinking errors our theft class would not meet that standard. If, however, the referring person wants the person being referred to be exposed to specific thinking errors (and omissions) related to stealing and to have those thinking errors confronted and corrected, then our programs and services meet that standard quite well.

Some of the key thinking errors focused on in the "THEFT TALK" curriculum deal with the offenders focus on trying not to get caught, an attempt to avoid punishment vs. impact on the victim as the primary force driving decision making, "License", the thinking a person has which gives him/her permission to steal, Circular Thinking (failure to think of

the victim), empathy development and developing an in depth understanding as to why stealing is wrong and an aggressive confrontation regarding an introspective character assessment.

Students of this online theft class have certain responsibilities:

1. All students are required to participate in class sessions. These sessions have both content, multi-media and quizzes within those sessions. In order for a student to progress to the next section of material, they must pass all prior quizzes. This ensures that each student learns the necessary information and is ready to review a new set of materials.
2. All sessions are timed. Students can not simply click through pages and take the quizzes without comprehending the material. The program is set up for the average reader (150 words per minute) and written to the 5th grade level. Students are required to complete each session which mimics a live in person session.
3. To receive a certificate of completion, all students must pass each chapter as well as a final exam with a passing score of 80% or better. Unlike most live classes, we require competency of materials and believe that a final exam is a fair way to achieve this goal.
4. All students can print out a Certificate of Completion upon passing the Final Exam. Each certificate is provided with a verification number for authenticity.

Why is THEFT TALK Online Services a superior way of completing a theft class requirement?

1. Online education has become one of the most acceptable ways of completing educational requirements as evidenced through almost all major universities offering online classes.
2. There are several advantages to taking our online theft class vs. a face to face class. Some of these advantages to the client include:
 - A reduction of cost to the client vs. a face to face program. Our program is about ½ the cost of a live program.
 - Our program is self-paced and can be taken from any internet based computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Participants do not have the argument that they couldn't find a class close to work or home.
 - Participants will not lose wages from work because the classes can be worked on during lunch hours or during breaks, evenings, or weekends. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Interaction with the client is much easier because it is not in a group setting; therefore individual questions and requests can be answered on a one/one basis.
 - It is a very "green" alternative to driving somewhere to complete a class.

We will also allow any court official who wishes to view our program to call our office and we will set up a guest user registration at no charge.

**THEFT TALK Online Services can be reached in person by calling
503-771-2542 or by email at info@thefttalk.com**