



TIBRS TRAINING TIPS

REPORTING SHOPLIFTING AND FRAUD INCIDENTS

The background of the text features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The seal is circular with a gold border and contains the words "TENNESSEE", "BRAVERY", "INTEGRITY", "TRUTH", "TBI", and "BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION". It also includes a scale of justice and the text "EST. 1980".



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QUESTION:

A man concealed a DVD in a department store and left the store without paying. He returned to the store and asked for a refund for the DVD. He didn't have a receipt, so they gave him a gift card instead. How is this reported to TIBRS? How many incidents? Is it one or two?

ANSWER:

It depends on the timing of events, as illustrated in the following examples:





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EXAMPLE 1:

If the shoplifter left the store and returned a very short time later (there is no official guideline for this, but we generally recommend 15 minutes or less), it is reported as 1 incident with 2 offenses: **Shoplifting and Fraud**.

The **Shoplifting** offense are completed. The **Fraud** may be attempted or completed, depending on whether or not the store completed the transaction and gave the offender the gift card. Report the Fraud as *attempted* if they didn't complete the transaction. Report the fraud as *completed* if the transaction was completed. The property category in the shoplifting incident is **Recordings, Audio/Visual** (*it is not classified as Merchandise*).

The property category in the fraud incident is **Gift Card**.





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EXAMPLE 2:

If the shoplifter left the store and returned after a longer period of time, it would be reported as 2 incidents with 1 offense each:

The 1st incident is **Shoplifting** (completed). The 2nd incident is **Fraud**. Just as in Example 1, the Fraud can be attempted or completed, depending on whether or not the store completed the transaction and gave the offender the gift card. *Report the Fraud as *attempted* if they didn't complete the transaction. Report the Fraud as *completed* if the transaction was completed.

The property categories in Example 2 are the same as in Example 1.

