

Mini Role Play #1, Theft

1 – 1

Background information to be read to all participants

- A young person named S. Williams burglarized a home and stole a smart phone and \$20 in cash.
- A week later, S. was caught by the police and admitted to committing the offense.
- The police recovered the smart phone, but S. had already spent the \$20.
- The court referred the case to a conference to determine an appropriate outcome.
- All parties involved participated in pre-conference meetings and agreed to the norms. No one showed any signs of being problematic.

Required Characters

S. Williams: Has no objections about coming to the conference and seems appropriately afraid and ashamed.

M. Williams, S.'s Parent: Very shocked by S.'s behavior and readily agrees to come to the conference.

L. Oakley, Neighbor whose home was burglarized: Extremely upset about the theft and is now uncomfortable, worrying about an intruder being in the house. Wants to confront S. and express their anger and disappointment.

A. Díaz, L.'s supporter: A friend and neighbor who has concerns about L. Oakley and is worried that the conference may be even more upsetting, causing greater issues.

Optional Character

C. McBain, S.'s supporter: Longtime friend of S., whom S. picked as a supporter. C. is upset about what S. did.

S. Williams

1 – 2

- You broke into L. Oakley's home and stole a smart phone and \$20.
- You have no objections about coming to the conference and are appropriately afraid and ashamed.
- You apologize immediately at the outset of the conference.
- You wanted some money and thought you could get away with stealing.
- You are old enough to get a job but haven't been actively looking for employment. You would rather hang out with your friends.
- ***If L. Oakley asks why you picked their house, explain that it was just a random choice. You saw that no one was out on the street and you just walked in and stole the money and the smart phone.***
- You never thought about the impact of your actions on anyone.
- You spent the money on food with your friends.
- ***As you listen to others describe how your actions caused them to be afraid, you feel very ashamed.***
- You are cooperative. In the agreement phase, you are willing to accept any reasonable consequences.

Please do not exaggerate your role and make it difficult for the facilitator to conduct the role-play conference. Most real conferences run smoothly and without extreme behaviors.

This script is to be read only by the individual playing the role.

M. Williams, S.'s Parent

1 – 3

- You are shocked by S.'s behavior and readily agree to come to the conference.
- You are embarrassed to be at the conference, but you are very cooperative and have an open mind.
- You are truly worried about how this incident will affect S.'s future.
- You believe that S. is a good person. But you explain that S. is easily influenced and is more of a follower than a leader.
- You have been trying to get S. to look for a job, but S. has been resistant.
- You apologize to L. Oakley, the victim, for what S. did.
- You support any reasonable consequences that L. Oakley wants from the conference.

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L. Oakley

1 – 4

- Your house was broken into by S.
- You are extremely upset about the theft, especially because it was committed by a member of the community.
- You are now afraid of being victimized again and have developed a distrust of strangers.
- You desperately want to confront the offender, to find out why S. picked *your* house to steal from.
- You feel violated by S.'s invasion.
- During the agreement phase, you want S. to repay the \$20 that was stolen. Also, if any damage was done to your smart phone, you would like it repaired.

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A. Díaz, L.'s Supporter

1 – 5

- You are very concerned about L. Oakley and are worried that the conference might cause more stress and anxiety.
- You are also upset by the theft and want to tell S. how wrong it was and how it is an embarrassment to the community.
- The theft made you worry about other kids stealing in the neighborhood, and you have been more reactive in your interactions.
- **At first, you think S. should have been arrested. But if S. shows shame and remorse, you accept the results of the conference. If S. does not show shame and remorse, request that S. be arrested.**

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C. McBain, S.'s Supporter
(optional character)

1 – 6

- You have been S.'s friend for a very long time.
- S. asked you to come to the conference as a supporter because you will support them and be honest with them.
- You are upset about what S. did and sympathize with L. Oakley.
- You offer support to S. and let them know that you are disappointed in their behavior. You have a job and offer to help S. look for one during the agreement phase.

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