

**Is participation in the program mandatory?**

- No. Participation in the program is voluntary
- Individuals who are not accepted into the program or who don't successfully complete the program will be returned to the formal court process

**Is there a cost to participate in the program?**

- No. The program is offered at no charge
- Participants may be expected to pay restitution or make a charitable donation in some circumstances

**Is a record kept?**

- Although there is no conviction following successful completion of the program, records of program participation are retained for two years and can be brought forward if the program participant re-offends during this period



Giving Hope Today

**The Salvation Army**

**CHATHAM COURT HOUSE**

**425 Grand Avenue West  
Chatham, Ontario  
N7M 6M8**



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**The Salvation Army**

**Community  
Justice Services**

**Direct Accountability  
& Stop Shop Theft  
Programs**

*The Salvation Army  
Community Justice Services  
Mission Statement*

*Community Justice Services of  
Chatham and Area supports,  
encourages and assists all persons  
affected by the Justice System*

**COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORKER**

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**What is the Direct Accountability Program?**

The Direct Accountability Program is an alternative to prosecution for eligible individuals who have been charged with minor criminal offences. The program involves accused persons being held accountable through community-based sanctions.

**Who Qualifies?**

Individuals over the age of 18 years of age with no or limited prior involvement in the adult court system who are charged with minor offences.

## How is a person referred to the program?

The Crown Attorney will notify the accused if they are considered eligible. The accused then meets with the Community Justice Worker who explains the details of the program and assigns sanction(s).

Individuals can also ask their Counsel or Duty Counsel about their eligibility. Participants should ask for legal advice from Counsel about their rights, the benefits of the program and the legal implications of their participation in the program.

To be considered for the program an individual must:

- Be willing to accept responsibility for actions that led to the charge
- Be willing to make amends for their offence through an assigned task or “sanction”
- Complete an agreement, outlining the terms and/or sanctions to be met

## What is expected of Participants in the Program?

The Community Justice Worker will meet with the individual to determine their ability and willingness to make reparation for the offence and their suitability and motivation to complete the assigned sanction(s). The Community Justice Worker will set a time limit for the completion of the agreed upon sanction(s).

Some of the sanctions available through the Direct Accountability Program include:

- Restitution
- An apology
- Volunteer Work

- Contribution to a Charitable organization
- Attending a program or presentation
- Peace Bond

Being eligible to participate in the program does not mean a person is “getting off easy”. It means by successfully completing the sanction(s) imposed, individuals can be held accountable for their behaviour and have the charge(s) withdrawn by the courts.

## PROGRAM OPTION Stop Shop Theft Program

### What is the STOP SHOP THEFT Program?

This educational/informational program is for persons charged with theft that meet the criteria for the program.

- Accused of theft related offence generally from a retail store
- Accused persons with a prior record for theft related offences
- Accused persons who have stolen higher value items and/or appear to have engaged in some planning prior to their offence

The program uses an educational solution focused model to encourage participants to generate their own ideas, solutions and goals on how to change the problematic thinking, feeling and behaviour that has led to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

### Program Structure

Each participant is expected to attend the full session, participate actively, and complete practice assignments. Upon successful

completion of the program, the Crown will be notified.

This is a one-day 3 hour program that takes place at:

Community and Family Services  
19 Raleigh Street, Chatham, Ontario

Parking is available and free of charge. The program runs every 6 to 8 weeks.

### The program consists of six topic areas:

- What is “ShopTheft”?
- Myths about “ShopTheft”
- Reasons Behind “ShopTheft”
- Getting Charged Again
- A Criminal Record and Your Future
- A Community Perspective on Theft

### How long does it take to complete the program?

Cases referred to the Direct Accountability Program can be resolved as quickly as the same day, but some cases may require an adjournment for a period of time for participants to fulfill the terms of their sanction(s).

### What are the benefits of the program?

- It allows for the efficient resolution of some minor court matters
- It saves on the amount of time victims and witnesses may have to spend in court
- It recognizes that community-based sanctions can be an effective way of holding some individuals accountable for some minor offences
- It holds individuals accountable for their actions while ensuring they also make amends for the harm caused