

I Wish I Knew Then What I Know Now!

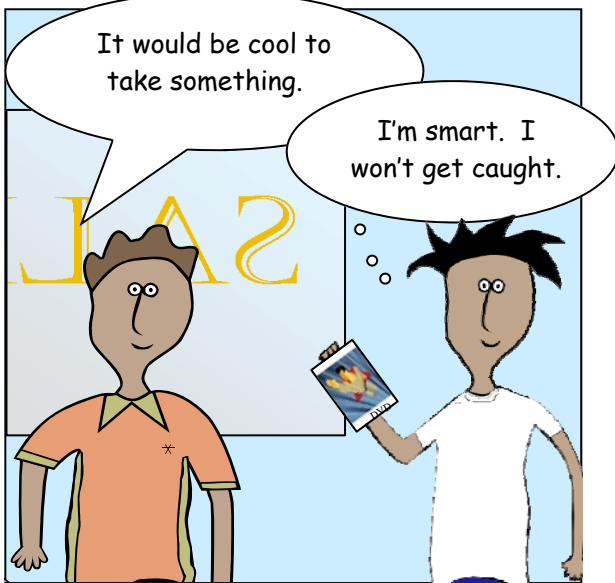


Brought to you by
the Juvenile
Assessment Center
of Lee County,
Florida



My name is Justin. I
got arrested. I want
to tell you my story so
you don't make the
same mistakes I did.

My friend and I were at a store. I didn't really think about what could happen.



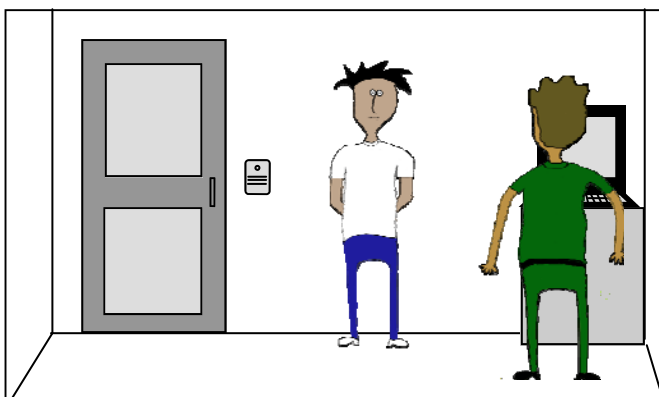
But I did get caught.



I was arrested. I was handcuffed and placed in the back seat of a police car.



I had a mug shot and fingerprints taken



I was taken to the Juvenile Assessment Center.

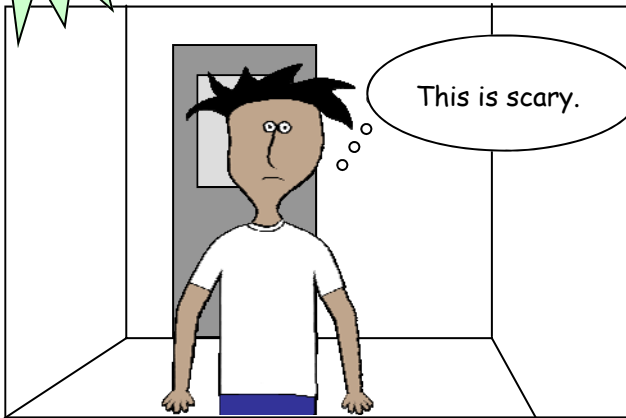


Someone from the Department of Juvenile Justice asked me a lot of questions.

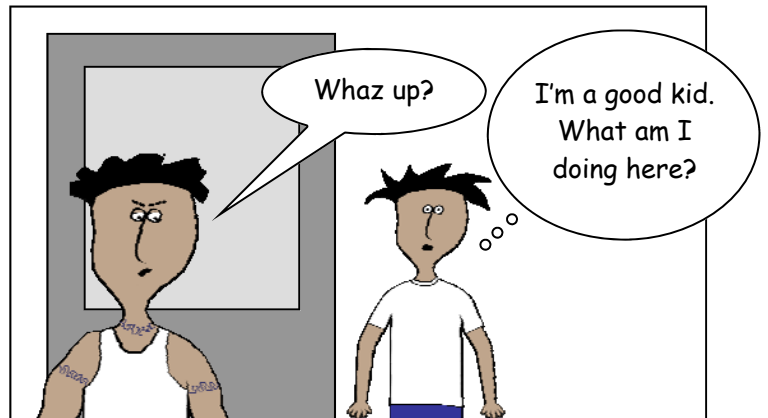




They put me into a locked cell.



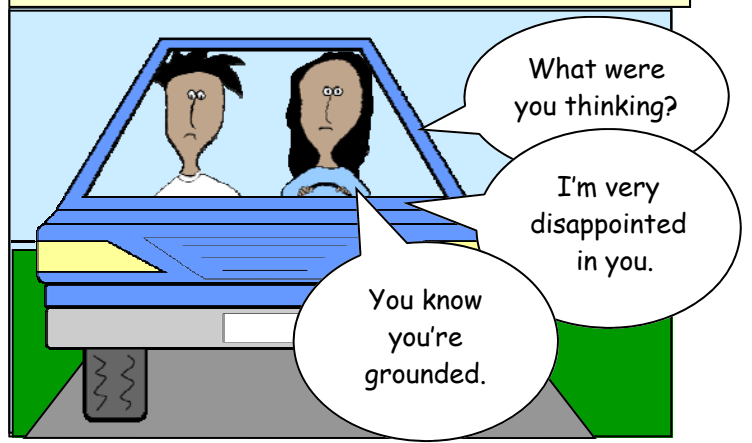
There were other kids there who also were arrested.



Meanwhile, the Department of Juvenile Justice called my mom.



Since I had not been in trouble before, I did not have to go to the juvenile detention center. My mom had to come pick me up from the assessment center.



A few days later we got a call saying my case had been approved for a court diversion program.

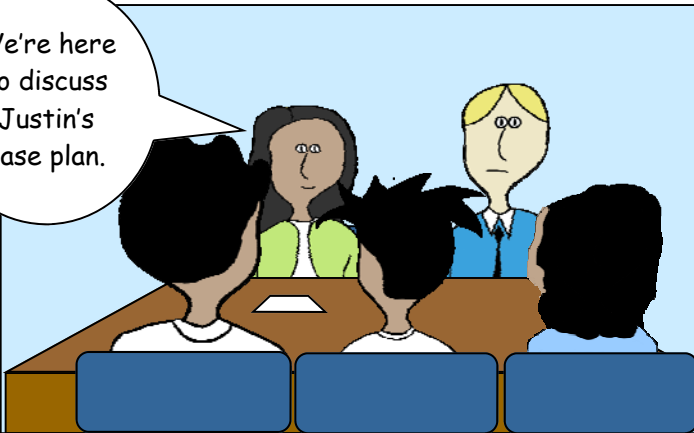


But, if I messed up in the program my case would go to court to be prosecuted.

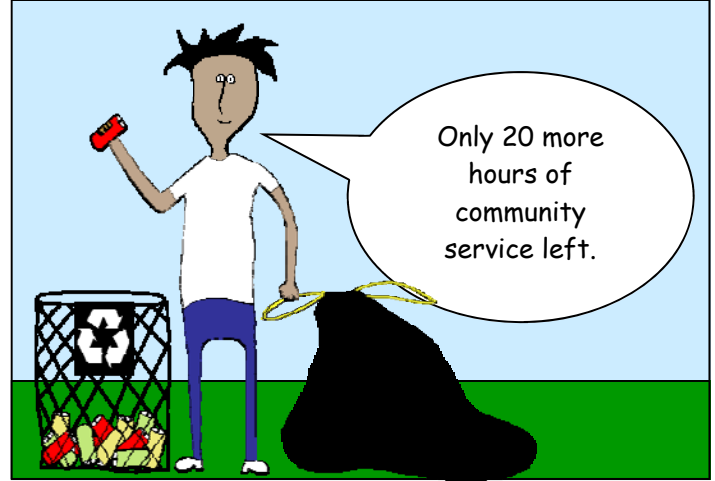


I had to admit that I had shoplifted to go into the diversion program. For my diversion case plan I'm not allowed to return to the store. I also have to pay the store \$200. Plus, I can't get into any more trouble.

We're here to discuss Justin's case plan.

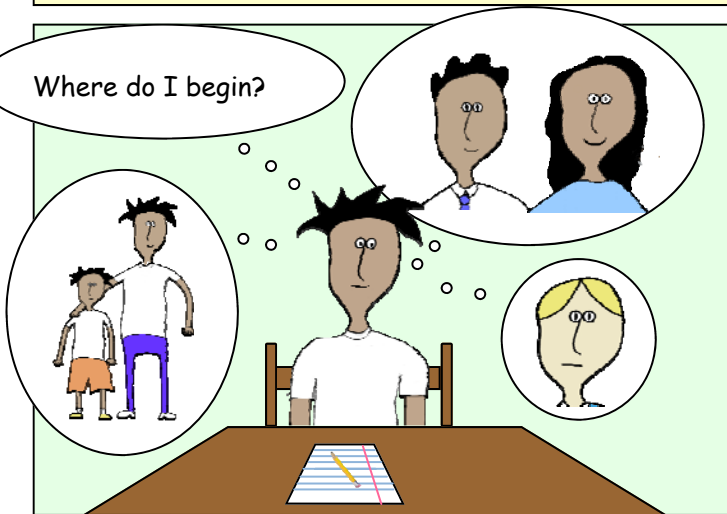


As part of my case plan I had to do community service hours.

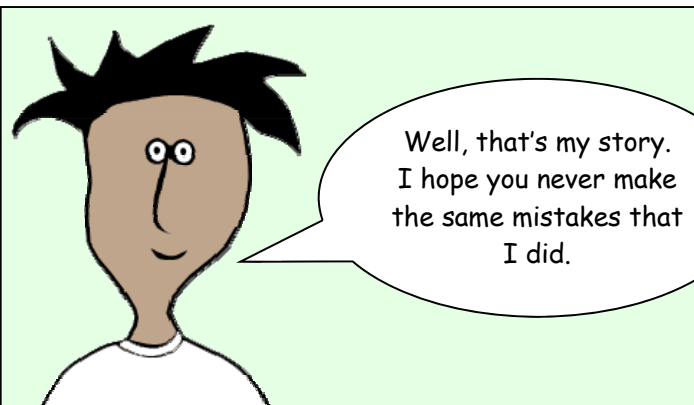


I also had to write an essay about who I had harmed.

Where do I begin?



Well, that's my story. I hope you never make the same mistakes that I did.



How I Caused Harm When I Shoplifted by Justin



When I decided to take something from the store I thought it wouldn't harm anyone, but I was wrong. When people steal from stores, everyone else in the community has to pay more because the store has to raise prices to pay for their losses. To the store, "I'm sorry." I disappointed my parents. It may be a long time before they will trust me again. I let down my little brother because he always looked up to me. The police officer had to use his time to arrest me rather than being out on patrol protecting the public. I also disappointed myself because I know now that I did a very stupid thing. I also know now that I should pick better friends. I wish I knew then what I know now!