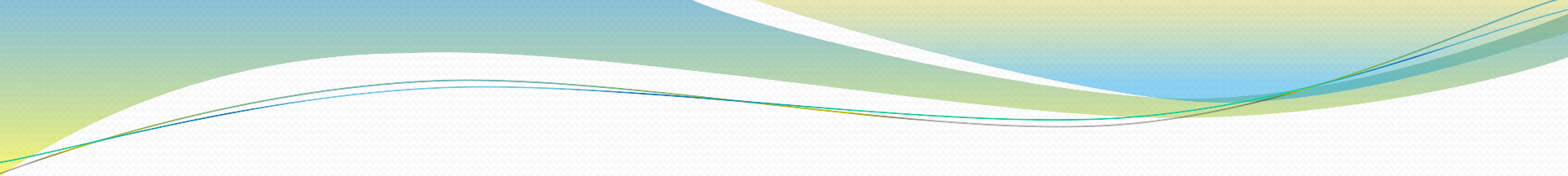
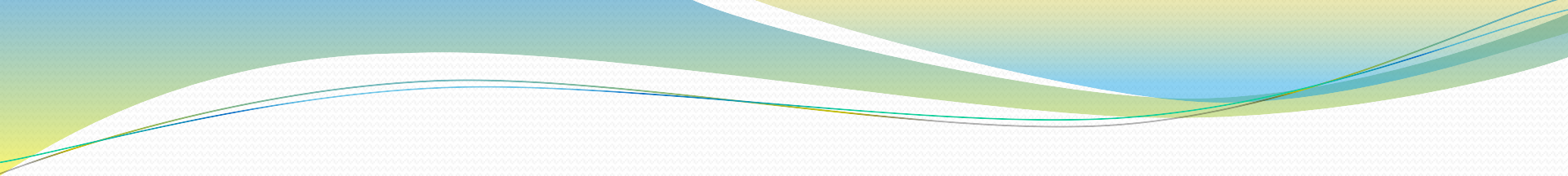
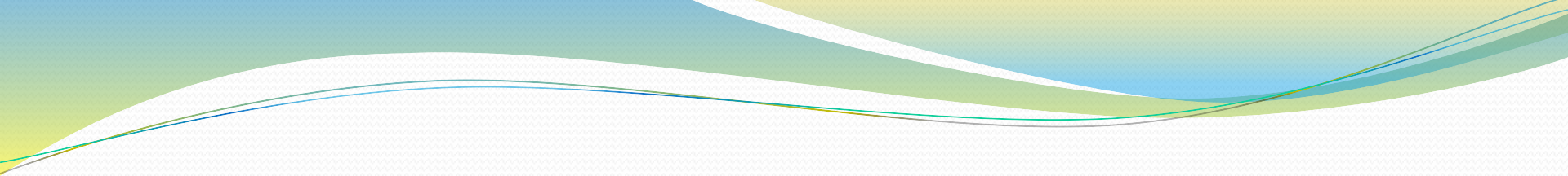


Petit Theft

- 
- As outlined in Florida Statute 812.014 petit theft occurs where a person steals or endeavors to steal property from a person or business where the value of the property is less than \$750.
 - Some individuals struggle to afford basic necessities like food, clothing and toiletries. The rising costs of living and financial strain can drive people to commit theft. Although people suffer financial hardships there are services provided to assist them in this time of need. Doing a little research a person can locate organizations near them that can help.
 - There are several mental health disorders which can urge a person to steal items that are often not needed. Whatever it is whether impulse control issues or seeking a thrill there is no psychological legal excuse to committing theft.
 - Peer pressure is one of the most common social reasons people commit theft. The need to seek acceptance or trying to impress friends is no reason to commit theft.
 - Whether a person is suffering from one of the three listed excuses or some other reason there is no legal defense to petit theft. It is better to evaluate the situation and seek help prior to committing theft.

- 
- Being found guilty of petit theft charges can have long term consequences that many don't think about. The following two consequences can have lasting effects on a person's life:
 - 1) Under Florida Statute 812.014(5)(b) a judgment of guilty for a petit theft “shall provide for the suspension of the convicted person's driver license.” This includes a 6 month driver license suspension for a first adjudication, and up to 1 year for a second adjudication.
 - 2) Petit theft is considered a “crime of dishonesty,” and a conviction will create a permanent criminal record that may bar a person for employment, professional licenses, and acceptance into colleges.

- 
- **SECOND DEGREE MISDEMEANOR PETIT THEFT:** When the property is valued less than \$100, petit theft is classified as a second degree misdemeanor, with penalties of up to 60 days in jail, or 6 months probation, and a \$500 fine.
 - **FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR PETIT THEFT:** When the property is valued at more than \$100, but less than \$750, petit theft is a first degree misdemeanor, with penalties of up to 1 year in jail, or 12 months probation, and a \$1000 fine.
 - **FELONY PETIT THEFT:** Petit theft may be charged as a third degree felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison or 5 years of probation, where the defendant has been convicted 2 or more times of ANY theft offense.