

Trusted & Busted!

This pharmacist was implicated in theft by the company bookkeeper. It required a 5-month investigation to bring this thief to justice. He was NEVER aware of the video evidence. In fact, he was NEVER told about any video evidence. He admitted to stealing and wrote a confession without having to be told, "*We got you on tape, so you better fess up!*" Displaying video evidence can be one of the worst techniques an interrogator can use.

The Pharmacist's confession appears below. You will note that the original confession is difficult to read due to his poor penmanship. Therefore, we took the liberty of typing his confession, word-for-word, mistakes and all. The typed version is identical to his written version.

There is also a short video of him stealing from the cash register. This is just one example of many of him stealing. You can see him roll up bills in his right hand before concealing the money in his pocket. On other occasions, he can be seen to lay money to the right side of the register before folding up the money and securing it in his pocket.

Lastly, you will see a letter written by the President of the company this Pharmacist worked for. It was distributed to 1,200 of his coworkers.

(Pharmacist - Subject of bookkeeper in confession number 3-same company.)

(Nearly 5 months later - June 22, 1988)

During my employment with I have stolen approx. \$182,000 in cash, one hundred eight thousand dollars in cash approx. five thousand four hundred eight dollars in various food items (\$5,408) During my partnership with Jim I stolen approx. fifteen thousand six hundred \$15,600 in cash. The last time I stole anything was today 6-22-88 what I stole was \$259. The first year of employment, I stole \$10,000 ten thousand dollars in cash up and above the figure mentioned above. Totally \$192,000

Serial # of money I stole tonight is as follows
(1) 6976751701 (2) 20816320A (3) 14056534E (4) 061888366A
H00611463B F09999467B L15922230B
L15471879H I30955795A B87993444B
004588077S D41272360B G37195475A
C12923549C B78435753C
H28436967A
P50593733B
E23040133A
D89555445B

I have returned the \$259 I stole today. I stole approx one thousand dollar a week the past 3 1/2 year of my employment at (\$1,000) The most money stole in one day has been \$350 three hundred fifty dollars The way in which I stole the money was under ringing the Rx sale. 90% of the time it was done this way and 10% of time would not ring the sale up. Realizing the pharmacy gross would be low I rang the HBA items up as Rx sale. This would keep the Rx gross up and make the HBA gross bad! The money went from the till to my pocket. The money was used to pay off debt I occurred over the past several years i.e. credit cards, cars, boat, home mortgage I used Money order's to make these payment's My monthly payments on the credit cards and cars, was approx. (\$3,000) three thousand dollars I feel this kept occurring because of my debt responsibilities kept growing - a snowball effect. I was put in position of trust and violated this trust, therefore making it easier to steal.

This thief was a full-time pharmacist who stole \$213,000! Note the date. PATIENCE is the essential element to the success of any investigation.

This is the thief described in the bookkeeper's confession—5 months earlier! (This is the pharmacist's handwritten confession. He was described in the bookkeeper's confession in Part 2.)

Note the ratio of cash vs. merchandise thefts. (\$207,600 cash vs. \$5,408 in merchandise) The closer an asset is to cash the more likely it will be stolen.

This is the amount of money he stole on the date of his interview—before the end of his work shift. Does this look like the "bundles" of 20's, 10's and 5's the bookkeeper was talking about in her confession?

Text version of handwritten confession

During my employment with I have stolen approx. \$182,000 in cash, one hundred eight-two thousand dollars in cash approx. five thousand four hundred eight dollars in various food items (\$5,408) During my partnership with Jim I stolen approx. fifteen thousand six hundred \$15,600 in cash. The last time I stole anything was today 6-22-88 what I stole was \$259. The first year of employment, I stole \$10,000 ten thousand dollars in cash up and above the figure mentioned above. Totally \$192,000

Serial # of money's I stole tonight is as follows
\$100 0976781701 \$500 J00810320A \$200 L19456534E \$500 061888366A
H00611463B F09999467B L15922230B
L15471879H I30955795A B87993444B
004588077S D41272360B G37195475A
C12923549C B78435753C
H28436967A
P50593733B
E23040133A
D89555445B

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This is the letter written by the President of the company to the 1,200 coworkers of the thief who wrote the confession displayed above.

July 14, 1988

Dear Fellow Associates:

On Thursday, June 23, 1988, at our Fergus Falls [REDACTED] store, we apprehended an associate who had stolen several thousand dollars from our company. [REDACTED], for the past two years, has employed Loss Prevention Consultants, a professional investigative agency that uses discretion when investigating employee theft.

The person apprehended in this instance, if convicted, faces ten years in prison, a \$20,000 fine plus restitution.

The number one reason for small business failure is employee theft. This individual stole from all of us. He created a loss at that store, which impacted our profit sharing and E.S.O.P. plan. He stole from us our pride and integrity and stabbed our friendship in the back. He stole from all of us potential raises due to increased profits and he stole from all of his loved ones, his family and relatives, who are well respected in the community, with the embarrassment and consternation of this situation.

We have always recognized that, with 1,200 employees, you will have some bad apples in the group. These bad apples can affect us all dramatically.

We have employed Loss Prevention Consultants for the past two years to intervene when we suspect an associate of stealing or when one is reported. Please be assured, if you report an associate on this number, [REDACTED], it will be handled in a professional and discretionary manner. Your name does not have to be known. If you come forward and use your name, using the [REDACTED] number, you will receive a reward, if we prove that that associate was stealing from our company.

[REDACTED] policy on employee theft is we will go for restitution and we will prosecute to the full extent of the law. We have a duty to all honest associates and their future employers to handle all losses in a prudent business manner. Please help us be a better employer--report employee theft on the [REDACTED] number in whichever manner you choose. Report all shoplifters to your store manager or manager in charge so we can reduce or stop theft in our company. We want to investigate, and will continue to investigate, using surveillance and whatever means necessary to stop employee theft and shoplifting.

Very truly yours,