

**WELCOME TO C.A.S.A.**  
*Cleptomaniacs And Shoplifters Anonymous*  
**INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION & GROUND RULES**

**C.A.S.A. is a secular, independent support group founded in 1992 by a recovering shoplifter who wanted a place for himself and others to get support to stop shoplifting and stealing in order to heal and grow and live more happy, healthy and productive lives.**

C.A.S.A. has no leader per se but uses a facilitator to help maintain some structure and flow to the meetings. We ask for volunteers to facilitate any given week and to help set-up around 6:45pm. Our meetings begin promptly at 7pm and end by 8pm. Open discussion may take place for a short time after our “check-in” round has finished.

**C.A.S.A. is a safe, confidential and anonymous group. Whatever is said here is to be help in the strictest confidence. We have many court-ordered attendees and we will sign a sheet at the end of the meeting verifying attendance. *Attendees need to be at the meeting for at least one half hour to have sheets signed.* We will not divulge to any court personnel anything a person has shared at our meetings.**

C.A.S.A. does not endorse any particular beliefs or spiritual path and is sensitive to differences among people. C.A.S.A. works with some of the 12-Step groups’ ideas and suggestions while reserving the right to depart where it sees fit.

**C.A.S.A. is a self-supporting organization and it is strongly requested that each member donate \$2.00 per meeting to cover the costs of renting the space, copying, snacks, etc. A basket will be passed around and made available each evening.**

We request no interruption of persons while they’re talking—this includes no side conversations, no fussing with food or papers, and minimizing getting up to leave while a person is sharing unless absolutely necessary.

**We would like to remind everyone to please limit your sharing time to 5 minutes or less per person. Please say your first name, how long you have been coming to C.A.S.A. and report about your week—especially whether or not you have stolen anything or been tempted to do so, what happened, and what you have learned or need to do to be safe.**

After our group “check-in”—during our loose discussion time, remember: we are not here to debate each other or argue, but to listen, learn and support; we are not here to give advice or solve each other’s problems as C.A.S.A. is not a substitute for professional counseling or therapy; please either ask relevant follow-up questions or share thoughts or personal suggestions that might add to what has been shared during “check-in.”

**Family or friends of members are welcome to attend C.A.S.A. at our first Thursday of the month open meeting. We need to vote as a group to allow friends or family to attend on any other Thursday.**

People at C.A.S.A. should not be under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs and will be asked to leave.

**Profanity or offensive language is discouraged at our meetings so please be sensitive to this.**

C.A.S.A. appreciates any way in which members can help spread the word about our group so that others may get help and the community at large may recognize our value.

**We may vote as a group at any given meeting on issues that are of general concern.**

At this time, please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. Thank you and welcome to C.A.S.A.