

The following is a sample of a Replevin Petition.  
There is no filing fee for this petition.

IN THE COUNTY COURT,  
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

-VS-

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Plaintiff(s))

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Defendant(s))

**REPLEVIN STATEMENT OF CLAIM**

Plaintiff(s) \_\_\_\_\_, sue(s)  
Defendant(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and alleges:

1. This is an action to recover possession of personal property in Palm Beach County, Florida.
2. The description of the property is: [list property]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the best of plaintiff's knowledge, information, and belief, the value of the property is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Plaintiff is entitled to the possession of the property because:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. To plaintiff's best knowledge, information, and belief, the property is located at:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The property is wrongfully detained by defendant. Defendant came into possession of the property by [method of possession]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To plaintiff's best knowledge, information and belief, defendant detains the property because [give reason]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. The property has not been taken for any tax, assessment, or fine pursuant to law.
7. The property has not been taken under an execution or attachment against plaintiff's property.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment for possession of the property.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_



*The mission of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is to help reduce crime in business and residential communities by working together in partnership and through various proactive strategies, techniques, and programs.*

**EMERGENCY - DIAL 911**

**Non-Emergency Numbers:**

South County (561) 995-2800  
North County (561) 688-3000  
West County (561) 996-1670

For more information contact the  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Crime Prevention Unit  
1937 N Military Trail, Suite-Q  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409  
(561) 688-3970

Email: [CrimePrevention@pbso.org](mailto:CrimePrevention@pbso.org)



**STOLEN PROPERTY**



**PAWNSHOPS  
SECOND-HAND  
DEALERS**

Being a victim of a theft or burglary is a disturbing experience. Almost equally disturbing is the difficult process for recovering your stolen property.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

# STOLEN PROPERTY



Once you are a victim of a theft or burglary, criminals can quickly dispose of your property by pawning it or selling it to pawnshops or second-hand dealers. There are more than 50 pawnshops and 86 second-hand

dealers licensed in Palm Beach County. Fortunately there are things you can do to protect yourself and assist the Sheriff's Office if you should become a victim of theft.

## Learn what you can do to protect yourself and assist law enforcement if you are a victim of a theft or Burglary.

**1** Keep a list of your valuables including a detailed description and serial number. For all expensive items such as jewelry, cameras, coin collections etc. be sure to have receipts, photos, and appraisals on the most expensive items, these are items that do not have serial numbers and cannot be engraved.



**2** Provide a list of stolen property when reporting a burglary or theft. Items reported that have serial numbers, detailed descriptions, receipts, and photos can be checked in the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Pawnshop Tracking System.

All pawnshops and second-hand dealers in Palm Beach County must report all items received to the Sheriff's Office.



You may consider checking the pawnshops and second-hand dealers in the area for your property.

## Things to Remember

Pawned items must be held 30 calendar days. Items acquired by a second-hand dealer must be held for 15 calendar days.

While on hold, the pawnshop and second-hand dealer should not have those items on display. You may not see your stolen property right away.



With probable cause to believe property in possession of a pawnbroker is stolen, law enforcement may place a written hold on the property for 90 days.

With probable cause to believe property in possession of a second-hand dealer is stolen, law enforcement may extend the holding period to 60 days.



**3** If any of your property is found in a pawnshop or second-hand store you may attempt to get it back by notifying the Pawnbroker or second-hand dealer by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with a signed claim to the property. The claim must contain a detailed description of the property and must be accompanied by a copy of a police report on the misappropriation of the property.



**4** If notifying the pawnshop or second-hand dealer to obtain your personal property doesn't work, you can begin the legal process for getting your property returned. During this process the Sheriff's Office may place a hold on the property. One option is to



file a Replevin Petition with the clerk of court. Identifiable serial numbers, etched or engraved on property, photos and receipts are helpful during this process. Another alternative



to this process is to buy the property back from the pawnshop or secondhand dealer. This is only recommended when it's a family heirloom or collectible. If there is a pending criminal case related to the property, another option is to contact the State Attorney's Office to file a Motion for Return of Property in the criminal case.

**5** No one expects to be a victim of a theft or burglary, that's why being prepared by keeping detailed records is the best way to assist the Sheriff's Office if your property is stolen.

Following these tips will help you during the long, sometimes difficult, process of retrieving your property after a theft has occurred.

