

CHAPTER 3:

CRIMINAL OFFENSES

The average person usually doesn't know what makes something a burglary, a robbery, or an assault. In other words, they don't know the elements of certain crimes. As a result, they often end up on the hook for somethin' they can't even explain. This chapter explains how the law defines certain crimes. We'll jump it off with the basic crimes against other people's property and move through until we get to the heavier stuff like murder.

Section A: Taking People's Property

Taking other folks' property is one of the oldest criminal acts on the books. They used to cut people's hands off for it back in Biblical days. Taking some stuff that didn't belong to you was highly frowned upon back then, and the government still ain't feelin' it today. Think about it, when you steal from somebody, you take somebody else's hard-earned stuff. Even if it wasn't earned the hard way, you are taking something that you don't have any right to have. What the heck makes you think you can just take people's stuff? But, that's a little off track ... getting back to stealing. There are 4 main ways you can commit the crime of stealing. You can commit 1) larceny, 2) embezzlement, 3) robbery and 4) burglary.

Larceny

Larceny is stealing the good old fashion way. When somebody grabs someone else's stuff and takes it away with the intent to keep it, that's larceny.

Some people think that you can't be charged with larceny of store items (shoplifting) until you've actually walked out of the store with the goods. WRONG! As soon as you pick up those items with the intent to steal them, and walk a few inches from where you got them, the law says you have carried the items away. Even if you have a change of heart and try to put the stuff back, you can still be hit with larceny.

Embezzlement

Embezzlement is the stuff you hear about on TV and it sounds complicated, but it really isn't. Basically, embezzlement is when you are given somebody else's property to hold rightfully, but you later decide you are going to make it yours wrongfully. The most common victims of embezzlement are employers. You know those sweet hookups your mama keeps getting from the job? Yeah, that's stuff she embezzled. The extra flat screen monitor that ended up hooked up to your home computer she got when she was

ordering upgrades for the people in her office; the gas she puts in all the cars at the house with her job's gas card; or the printer paper she supposedly took home for printing up work at the house, but instead only uses it so you can print up stuff off the Internet; all that stuff is embezzled property. She works for her employer, so she is authorized to place orders for the office because it's part of her job. They may have given her a gas card because her job requires her to travel a lot. In order to work from home she may need to print stuff there, so her employer allows her to take printer paper home for that purpose. But, when she makes that stuff hers by using it for her own personal purposes, she's embezzling.

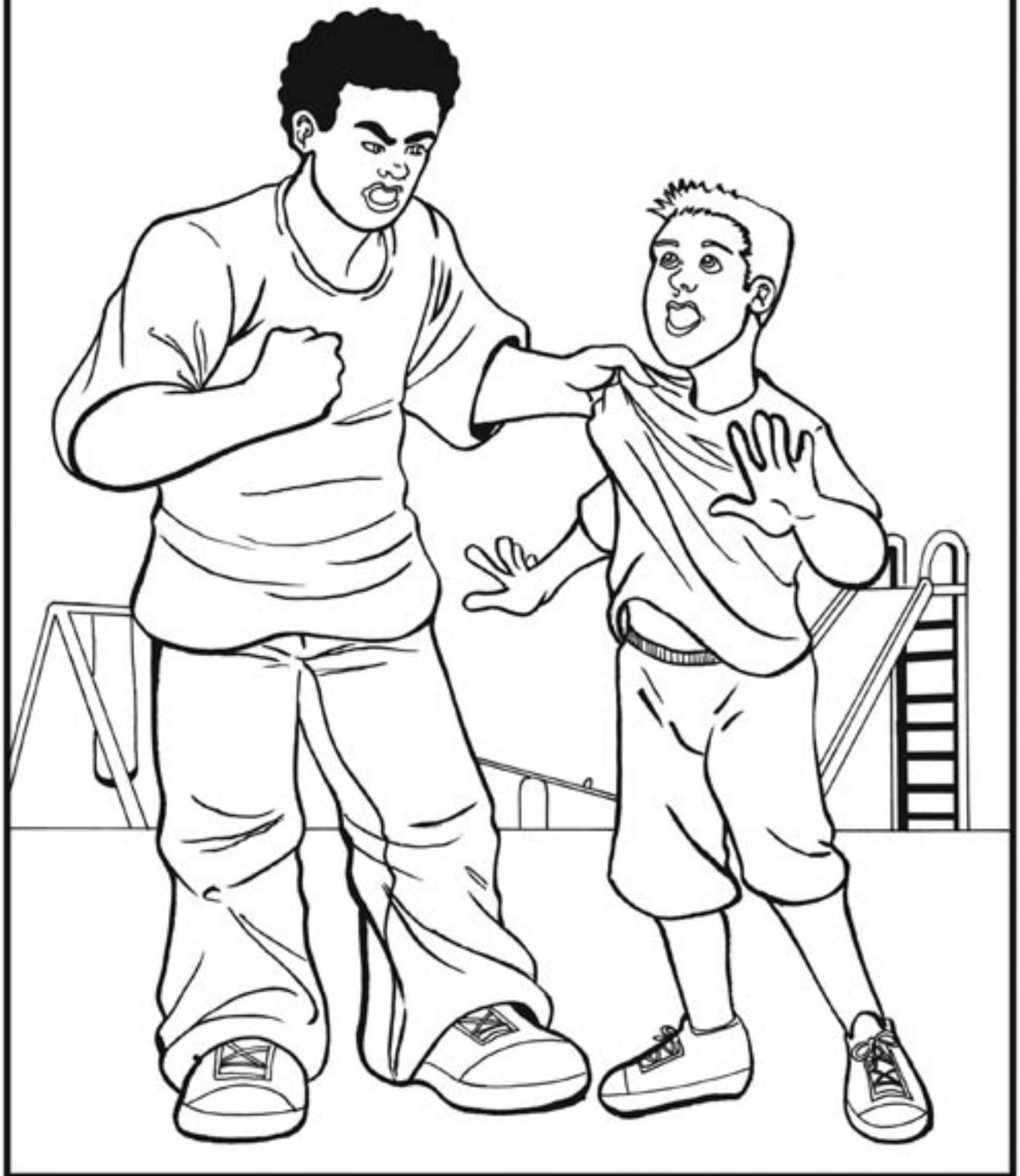
In a way, dope boys embezzle all the time. Every hood has that one dope boy who always has an excuse about why the dough came back short this time, or why the dope is a little lighter than last time. It's usually some stupid excuse like, "My supplier charged me more this time dawg, that ten grand only covered half of what it did the last time." You know like we know, if the dope was lighter it's because he was trimming it, and if the change was short it was because he was pocketing some of the cash. He's an embezzling jerk! If he's in the room while you're reading this, slap him right now and tell him that foul crap he does with the weight is called "embezzlement."

Robbery

Robbery is when somebody takes somebody else's stuff off the person or in front of the person by force or threat of harm with intentions to keep it forever. The perp doesn't even have to threaten the person he's robbing. The threat of harm could even be made against somebody with the person being robbed. For instance, a robber might run up on a father and son walking home. If he points the gun at the son while telling the father to "Run that watch or the kid gets it," he'd still be robbing the father. Another example of robbery is when some ignorant fool runs into a gas station, pulls out a gun and tells the person working the register to give him all \$62 in the cash register. (Quick note: Robbing a gas station or convenience store is the DUMBEST THING you can do to try to make a buck. The register probably has less than \$100 at any given time. You could face 20 years to life over less than \$100! You would be better off selling your gun. It's probably worth more than the loot you will find in the register.) Some other examples of robbery follow:

When The Cops Come Knockin'

A BULLY GOES UP TO A KID IN THE SCHOOL YARD AND TELLS HIM TO FORK OVER HIS LUNCH MONEY OR ELSE TAKE A POUNDIN'.



A THUG DOLLS UP ON A STORE CASHIER, PULLS OUT A GUN AND ORDERS HER TO EMPTY THE REGISTER.

