



Campus Police Department
5800 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-487-4210

FLORIDA PAWNBROKING ACT

Florida courts have ruled that law enforcement may not recover stolen property from pawn shops and return it to a victim of a crime without providing the broker the opportunity for a hearing.

If you are a victim of a theft and your property has been located in a pawnshop, you may decide to **purchase it back or obtain a court order to recover the property.**

In order to obtain a court order, you will need to file a **petition for return of the property** with the County Clerk of Court. It is recommended that you seek legal assistance to file the petition.

The Florida Pawnbroking Act states:

- To obtain possession of stolen property held by a pawnbroker, the victim must notify the broker by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person, evidenced by a signed notice.
- The notice must contain a complete and accurate description of the property and must be accompanied by a legible copy of the law enforcement agency's report of the theft.
- If the victim and the pawnbroker do not resolve the matter within (10) days after the pawnbroker's receipt of the notice, the victim may petition the court to order return of the property, **naming the pawnbroker as a defendant.**
- The pawnbroker is required to hold the property until the right to possession is resolved by the parties or by the court.

To obtain your crime report, contact the Campus Police Department Records Custodian:

Michael A. Kessie, Chief of Police
5800 Bay Shore Road
CPD
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-487-4210, mkessie@ncf.edu

Steps to obtain possession of pledged goods held by a pawnbroker:

1. Obtain a Notice of Claim form from the Campus Police Department or online at www.ncf.edu/police/forms/. Complete the form in its entirety and submit it to the pawnshop along with a copy of your crime report.
2. If not resolved after (10) days, take the Notice of Claim form and copy of the crime report to the Clerk of Court.
3. The Clerk of Court will file the petition and schedule a court date for the return of the misappropriated property.

Per F.S.S. 539.001(15)(a), the court shall waive any filing fee for the petition and the Sheriff shall waive the service fee.

Sarasota County Clerk of Court
(941) 861-7400
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2000 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34237

Manatee County Clerk of Court
(941) 749-1800
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1115 Manatee Avenue W
Bradenton, FL 34205

For more information, contact the Campus Police Department, 941-487-4210.

This material is for general information only and shall not be construed as legal advice or counsel.

Notice of Claim Form

To:

Florida Pawnbroker Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

From:

Claimant Name: _____

Claimant Phone #: _____

Today's Date: _____

Subject: Return of Stolen Property

The law enforcement agency, _____, has determined through the course of a criminal investigation that on the following date, _____, my stolen personal property was pawned at your business. The control number from the pawn slip is _____. My personal property was pawned by (insert first AND last name of seller) _____. I have included a copy of the police report with this notice.

I am requesting the following item(s) be returned to me **AT NO COST**.

Item #	Serial #	Description

Please include additional sheets if necessary; be sure they are attached to this Notice of Claim.

Printed Name of Claimant

Employee of Pawnbroker – Printed

Signature of Claimant

Employee of Pawnbroker – Signature

NCFPD 0318-011