

The following is a sample  
of a Replevin Petition



West Palm Beach Police Department  
600 Banyan Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 822-1900

To file a complaint  
Against a pawnshop or  
second-hand dealer, contact  
Florida Department  
of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services  
1-800-435-7352

VOCA Grant Fund  
V5031

Websites for more Information:  
Florida Pawnbrokers Association:  
<http://www.floridapawnbrokers.org/>

National Pawnbrokers Association:  
<http://www.nationalpawnbrokers.org/>

Florida Law Enforcement Property Recovery Unit:  
<http://www.flepru.org/>

National Association of Property Recovery Investigators:  
<http://www.napri.org/>

Florida State Statutes:  
<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/>

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:  
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/>

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

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

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

-VS-

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

REPLEVIN STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Plaintiff (s) \_\_\_\_\_, sue (s)  
Defendant(s) \_\_\_\_\_, for  
return of personal property wrongfully held and states:

1. Defendant (s) wrongfully hold (s) personal property described as \_\_\_\_\_ ("Property").  
(Describe the claimed property)
2. To the best of my/our knowledge, information, and belief the Property is worth \$\_\_\_\_\_ And is located at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address where the property is held)
3. I/we own the Property or an/are entitled to possession of it because \_\_\_\_\_  
(State how you became the owner or why you are entitled to hold the Property)
4. Defendant (s) wrongfully hold (s) the Property. Defendant (s) came to hold the Property when \_\_\_\_\_  
(Describe how Defendant (s) came into possession of the property and why he/they hold it)
5. The Property has not been taken for tax, assessment or fine pursuant to the law.
6. The Property has not been taken under an execution or attachment against the property of the Plaintiff or, if so taken, is by law exempt from such taking.

Wherefore, the Plaintiff (s) demand issuance of a Writ of Replevin placing him/her/them in possession of the Property, costs of this action, and such other relief as this Court deems just.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

Pawnshops,  
Second-Hand  
Dealers, Stolen  
Property &

**You**



West Palm Beach  
Police Department

Delsa R. Bush, Chief



*Being a victim of theft*

*Is a disturbing experience.*

*Learn what you can do  
to protect yourself and  
assist law enforcement if  
you are a theft victim.*



**Frequently**  
**Asked**  
**Questions**

**Q: What can I do to increase the likelihood of recovering my stolen property?**

*A: Keep a list of your property that includes detailed descriptions, model numbers, and serial numbers. It's a good idea to keep your receipts and photos for expensive belongings, especially those without serial numbers. Etch your name or other identifying mark or logo on items when possible. This will help the police in their search for your stolen property, provide you with documentation for an insurance claim, and help you recover your stolen property if they are found. Provide your stolen item description and information to the police so that they can check for your stolen items.*

**Q: Where do the police look for my stolen property?**

*A: Police actively check pawnshops, second-hand dealers, and the internet for your stolen items. If you have provided a detailed description of your stolen items including serial numbers, your items will be entered into the stolen property database of the National Crime Information Center. This entry aids in the return of your property if your property is later found on a person, in a vehicle, or in a house.*

**Q: Why are there Pawnshops?**

*A: According to the Florida Pawnbrokers Association, Pawnshops offer the consumer a quick, convenient and confidential way to borrow money. A short-term cash need can be met with no credit check or legal consequences if the loan is not repaid. Pawnbrokers lend money on items of value*

**Q: What information has to be reported by the pawnshops?**

*A: All pawnshops and second-hand dealers in the County must report everything they receive to the Sheriff's Office. Any law enforcement officer can search the Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office Pawn Shop Tracking System. Pawn transaction information is confidential and protected by Florida State Statute. The public cannot access this system. Checking the Pawn System can be time consuming and difficult. Police rely on the information provided by the victim to search the system by make, model, serial number, description, and owner applied identifiers. If a suspect(s) name is provided it can be checked in the system. Vague or inaccurate information on stolen items severely limit the chances of recovery.*

**Q: Can I go to a pawnshop and look for my stolen property?**

*A: Items that are sold to a pawn shop are held and cannot be sold to the public for 30 days. Items that are pawned at a pawnshop are held and cannot be sold to the public for 60 days. While being held, the pawn shop cannot display the items. You would not see your stolen property on the shelves in the pawn shop if it is within these time limits. Law Enforcement has the right to inspect held items. The public does not have access to the area where items are held. After the hold period has expired, you may consider checking the pawnshops in your area.*

**Q: My belongings have been found in a pawnshop, what happens now?**

*A: The detective assigned to your case will meet you at the pawnshop. The detective needs to photograph your items, have you identify your property, obtain a sworn statement from you, advise you of the methods and materials to reclaim your property, and obtain a copy of the pawn transaction form. The detective will place a 90-day police hold on your items. The police hold imposes a holding period not to exceed 90 days unless extended by court order. Only one police hold order may be placed on the property. The pawnbroker may not dispose or release property subject to a police hold except pursuant to a court order, release by the law enforcement officer who placed the hold, or the expiration of the holding period.*

**Q: What information does someone have to provide when they pawn items?**

*A: A pledgor must provide their name, address, place of employment, date of birth, physical description, and telephone numbers. The pledgor must produce government issued identification. The pledgor signs a statement, under penalty of perjury, that they represent that the items being pledged belong to them and that they are the rightful owner. They pledge that they have the right to sell/pledge the property. The pledgor must also provide a thumbprint on the transaction form. This thumbprint is later compared in criminal cases for identification purposes.*

**Q: Who regulates and what standards are pawnbrokers held to?**

*A: The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulates the pawnbrokers. The pawnbrokers must abide by Florida State Statutes Chapter 539. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Law enforcement officers inspect and ensure compliance with this Statute. If the pawnbroker deals in firearms, then federal laws are applicable and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms also ensures compliance.*



**No one expects to be a victim of theft but being prepared, by keeping detailed records, is the best way to assist law enforcement if your valuables are stolen. By providing this information to law enforcement you can greatly enhance the recovery rate of your stolen property.**