

## Public Alert: Supermarket Theft Ring

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In recent months, numerous shoppers have had their purses, wallets, and cell phone stolen while grocery shopping.

### How it works:

Thieves who are often working in pairs will target an unsuspecting grocery shopper who has placed their purse in the grocery cart. One thief will distract the shopper by asking a question while the other thief will quickly grab the purse and walk right out of the store. This happens in seconds!! Sometimes, the thief will simply reach in the purse and grab the wallet or cell phone out and you do not even know it is gone until it is too late. Again, this can happen in an instant. These are sophisticated crime rings that are operating all over Southern California. The thieves that have been caught are both males and females.

The best way to protect yourself is **NEVER** leave your purse in your shopping cart. Try and keep your valuables on your person at all times when you are in the market. Also, be aware of those around you and if “shoppers” are invading your personal space or getting too close, take note. Report suspicious shoppers to the store manager.