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Habitual Felon Sentenced to 20 years for Committing Store Larcenies in 2024

On March 18, 2026, Shan Morant, age 52 of Wilmington, was convicted by a New Hanover County jury of two counts of habitual larceny. A person qualifies for the charge of habitual larceny if they commit any larceny and have been previously convicted of larceny four times.

On October 23, 2024, around 6:15 p.m., Morant entered the Harris Teeter at Mayfaire with an unknown female. Morant and the unknown female began to fill their carts with various merchandise and eventually pushed the carts out of the store without paying for the merchandise. Investigated by the Wilmington Police Department, Harris Teeter surveillance footage captured the entire crime. Morant was identified by having been a previous employee of that Harris Teeter.

On October 27, 2024 around 7:30 p.m., Morant entered Lowes Home Improvement in Porters Neck with an unknown female. Morant and the female filled a cart with store merchandise and pushed it out of the store without paying. Lowes Home Improvement surveillance footage captured the entire crime, and Morant was identified by that footage.

After returning guilty verdicts to Morant's two habitual larceny charges, the second phase of the trial occurred, and a New Hanover County Jury unanimously found that Morant had achieved the status of a habitual felon. Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Kent Harrell sentenced Morant to two consecutive 120–156-month active sentences. At the time of sentencing Morant was a prior criminal record level VI, the highest possible prior criminal record level in North Carolina. Morant's many prior convictions include five convictions for assault on a female, three convictions for assault on a government official, five convictions for misdemeanor larceny, two convictions for felony larceny, one conviction for habitual larceny, two felony drug convictions, a felony conversion by bailee, hit and run and communicating threats convictions. Morant has also been previously convicted of obstruction of justice and criminal contempt. During his sentencing Morant had to be forcibly removed by bailiffs while shouting in open court.



Shan Morant