



Group: Holiday Rationalizations

Rationalization: Financial pressure during the holidays

STATE IT: The holiday season is supposed to be a time spent with family and friends, enjoying each other's company and sharing our blessings with those less fortunate than ourselves. The holiday season was never meant to become a time of year that causes great mental and financial stress to people who can never live up to the season's expectations.

STORY IT: People look fondly upon days spent with their families, relatives, and friends during the holiday season. They also recall Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and time spent with loved ones, many who are now deceased. As the holiday season approaches, they try to recreate these great times in our lives. Unfortunately, the season has evolved into a time where people are expected to spend great amounts of money trying to recreate past memories. This is an impossible task. It causes great mental and financial strain on everyone involved. Money is scarce. Pay checks have not kept up with the cost of living. People often find ourselves in a position where they do something they deeply regret, attempting to obtain money and recreate past memories for their families and friends.

MORAL IT: When their mistake is discovered, they realize they made a great error in judgment. They are sorry for their mistake and realize that it was not worth the disappointment of their families and the loss of their self-respect. They are truly sorry and vow that this error in judgment will never be repeated.

LINK IT: As an investigator, I have the opportunity to speak with people and put their life events into perspective. People I speak with often realize that they have made grave errors in judgment. In many cases, these same people are truly sorry and vow never to make the same mistake again.