

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
LICENSING AND REGULATION

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v.

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CASE NOS.: SPMG 12-0007

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ARISTOTLE STROUMBIS  
dba The Goldfather,

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Respondent

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**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (“Department”) as a result of complaints filed by the Baltimore County Police Department. Upon a review of the complaints, the Department has determined that administrative charges against Aristotle Stroumbis, dba The Goldfather (the “Respondent”), be filed and an administrative hearing should be held. In an effort to resolve this matter without a formal hearing, the Respondent and the Department have agreed to enter into this Consent Order as the final settlement of this matter.

**THE PARTIES AGREE AND STIPULATE:**

1. At all times relevant to the matters set forth this Consent Order, the Department had jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Respondent.
2. The Respondent is obtained a license as a secondhand precious metal object dealer and pawnbroker (License No. 2366) trading as The Goldfather, 507 Eastern Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21221 on December 13, 2009.
3. On July 27, 2011 the Respondent conducted a transaction involving a man’s 10 karat yellow gold ring with clear stones.
4. On August 27, 2011, an inspection of the transaction records by officers of the Baltimore County Police Department determined that the original record of the transaction could not be located at the Respondent’s place of business.

5. On August 17, 2011, the Respondent acquired seven (7) items (Ticket No. 08171108) that were described as being composed of silver, a precious metal as defined by the Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act.

6. On August 30, 2011, officers of the Baltimore County Police Department conducted an inspection of the Respondent's records for Ticket No. 08171108. During the inspection, the Respondent advised the officers that the Respondent "threw away" silverware that he believed to be silver plated and the accompanying transaction records.

7. The Respondent and the Respondent's employees knew or should have known that there is a presumption that an object is a precious metal object if it reasonably appears to be a precious metal object and that it was received by a dealer in the course of business or is found in the place of the business or storage facility of the dealer.

8. The Respondent and the Respondent's employees knew or should have known that there is an object defined as a secondhand precious metal object that is acquired is required to be maintained at the dealer's place of business for 18 days following the date the object is reported to law enforcement agencies.

9. The Respondent and the Respondent's employees knew or should have known that the dealer is required to retain an original copy of each transaction at the dealer's place of business.

10. Based on the aforementioned facts, the Respondent acknowledges that the Respondent has violated Business Regulation Article §12-301 (a), (d), (e), and (f); and 12-305 (a) (1) (i) 1, Annotated Code of Maryland, which state:

**§12-301. Required Records**

(a) (1) Each dealer shall make a written record, on a form provided by the Secretary, of each business transaction that involves the acquisition of a secondhand precious metal object when the transaction is made.

(2) Each dealer shall retain the original copy of the written record required to be made under paragraph (1) of this subsection at the dealer's place of business.

(d) A separate record entry shall be made for each item involved in a transaction. However, items in a matching set may be recorded as a set if acquired in a single transaction.

(e) The dealer shall tag each item individually with a number that corresponds to the transaction under which it was acquired. However, items acquired in a matching set may be tagged as a set.

(f) For the purposes of this subtitle, there is a presumption that an object is a precious metal object if:

- (1) it reasonably appears to be a precious metal object; and
- (2) it was received by a dealer in the course of business or is found in the place of business or storage facility of a dealer.

(a) (1) (i) 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a dealer who acquires a precious metal object shall keep it in the county where the dealer holds a license from the time of acquisition until at least 18 days after submitting a copy of a record of its acquisition under § 12-304 of this subtitle.

11. Based upon the aforementioned violations, the Respondent agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty of \$ 700.00 upon the Respondent's execution of this Consent Order.

12. The Respondent further agrees that he shall abide by the provisions of the Maryland Secondhand Precious Metal Object Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act, § 12-101 et. seq. and COMAR 09.25.01, et. seq.

13. The Respondent, by entering into this Consent Order, expressly waives the right to have the pending allegations by the Department reduced to written charges, the right to an administrative hearing on the charges and the making of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and any all further proceeding before the Department to which the Respondent may be entitled to in this matter, and any rights to appeal from this Order.

14. The Respondent enters into this Consent Order freely, knowingly and voluntarily.

BASED ON THESE STIPULATIONS, IT IS, THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2011, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent has violated Business Article §12-301 (a), (d), (e), and (f); Annotated Code of Maryland;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is, hereby, reprimanded;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent be assessed a civil penalty of \$700.00 for the violations, which amount is to payable to the Department upon the Respondent's execution of this Consent Order and Settlement Agreement, and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Department's records and publications reflect the violations and the civil penalty of \$700.00 imposed on the Respondent.

RESPONDENT'S SIGNATURE  
APPEARS ON ORIGINAL ORDER  
Aristotle Stroumbis

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE  
APPEARS ON ORIGINAL ORDER  
Alexander M. Sanchez  
Secretary

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,  
LICENSING AND REGULATION

Date Dec. 16, 2011